ENTERTAINMENT / E1
Sharon writes about 'Penguin' docu narration

BUSINESS / B2-1
Group's roadmap on nation-building focuses on cities

ACROSS / A20
Palparan declares victory over Reds in N. Ecija town

WORLD / A27
Obesity a deadly global epidemic, say experts

Why it's summertime again this September

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE SWEATING PUBLIC will get no respite from the warm, humid temperature just yet, the country's weather bureau said.

The Philippine Atmo-

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, September 4, 2006 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 260 P18 www.inq7.net

Spain rips Greece, rules World Championship

SAITAMA, JAPAN—WITH INJURED PAU GASOL cheering on his teammates from the bench, Spain beat Greece 73-47 Sunday to claim its first gold medal in World Championship history.

The 2.13-meter (7-foot) Gasol led Spain (9-0) in scoring and rebounding throughout the tournament. When he broke his hand with about a minute left in the 75-74 semifinal win over Argentina, his team's gold-medal hopes dimmed considerably.

SPORTS REPORTS, A-13

Security officials go after terror expert

Footage shown to 50 in antiterror seminar

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Deputy Editor

THE MYSTERY MAN WHO SAID HE WAS ABLE to smuggle bomb components onto a domestic airliner is now the target of an intense investigation aimed at ferreting him out and finding out who was behind it all.

When he breached the security networks at two premier domestic airports in the country the civilian antiterrorism expert knew he was testing the limits and taking great risks because he could get caught and end up in jail for possessing explosive components he knew very well were illegal.

Knowing the delicate nature of the operations, the man made it clear he did not want his name or that of the person who asked him to do the job revealed.

He referred to the man as the "boss."

He said the "boss" was concerned about the adequacy of security measures at airports and wanted to know if the system totally worked.

The "boss" also wanted no one to know about the exercise "because when is the point of doing it if everybody is prepared," said the security expert.

At a restaurant in Quezon City, the expert used a laptop to play

SECURITY A-9

THE SECURITY CHECK continues, but this time more thoroughly by luggage inspectors at a counter of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport following the reported "bomb test" by a counterterrorism expert.

9/11 KIN A-8

9/11 kin illegally in US uneasy over riches

NEW YORK—ONE WIDOW HAS more than $2 million bar walks or rides the bus everywhere, terrified of drawing attention.

Another millionaire widow stopped going to 9/11 support groups because she feared that the families of police officers and firefighters might envy her.

A widower has enough money to start a business building houses, but cannot buy himself a home.

All three people lost a husband or a wife when the World Trade Center collapsed. Like thousands of others, they were beneficiaries of the federal Sept. 11 Victim Compensation Fund, which awarded millions of dollars to families whose loved ones died in the attacks.

But a secret sets these three people apart: Like their spouses who died, each is in the country illegally.

Even though the government compensated them richly for their losses, making them wealthier than they ever dreamed, the money did not change their immigration status. They live they could be deported any day.

Five years after the terrorist attacks, these three people are living with extraordinary contradictions.

Long accustomed to stashing dollar bills in coffee cans, they became millionaires overnight. But because they do not have social security numbers or work visas, they cannot get mortgages or driver's licenses.

They say they have spent little of the money, afraid of attracting notice.

Their spouses were labeled heroes, their names emblazoned on placards ringing Ground Zero.

JACINTO: Doctor-turned-nurse sends sob story from the Big Apple. INQUIRER PHOTO

Smuggler of 'bomb' pinpointed

By Nikko Dizon and Dennis Jay Santos
Inquirer Mindanao

IT WAS A DEEP OPERATION AND they have identified the man who had carried it out.

Aviation officials yesterday refused to name the antiterrorism expert who said he had succeeded in smuggling bomb components onto two domestic flights, pending completion of their investigation into the incident that had prompted an upgrade of security measures to prevent terror attacks on the country's airports or airplanes.

Chief Supt. Andres Caro, director of the Philippine National Police Aviation Security Group (PNP-AVSEG), said he had talked to the

SMUGGLER A-10

Video shows hole in bow of oil tanker

By Leila B. Salaverria

VIDEO TAKEN BY JAPANESE EXperts shows a hole in the bow of the MT Solar I that indicates it may have struck a container van that fell off a cargo vessel in stormy waters, causing the tanker to sink and burden fuel oil to spill into the sea, the Japanese learned yesterday.

Testimony based on initial findings given to a closed-door hearing of the Special Board of Marine Inquiry on Friday also revealed that one of the 10 tanks aboard the ill-fated vessel—designated as No. 4 port tank—was completely empty.

Another tank—designated as No. 2—was leaking very slowly, about a few drops every few seconds from the hatch, according to the testimony reported to the board by a probe participant.

The participant declined to be named because he represented one of the parties involved in the investigation. The identity of the expert who testified also was withheld, citing the need to protect the integrity of his final report. The Japanese had requested the private hearing.

The footage taken by the remote-operated vessel (ROV) sent down by experts from the Japanese research vessel MT Shinsei Maru last week also showed a steady, minimal stream of oil leaking out like a thread from the ventilation pipe. The vent has a valve, but there was a possibility that the ROV's manipulator arm might shear it off if it tries to close it and if the rotation is not done properly. The arm also could seal off the vent.

The 10 tanks inside the Solar I contained a total of 2 million liters of bunker fuel when it went down on Aug. 11 in roughness off Guimaras Island, causing the worst oil spill to the nation's history and polluting a 220-km coastline, fertile fishing grounds.

VIDEO A-6

No greener pasture for topnotcher

By Gerry Lirio

THE GRASS OUTSIDE THE Philippines is not always greener. So Elmer Jacinto, the topnotcher in the 2004 medical board exams who decided to leave for the United States and work as a nurse instead, has realized.

A 30-year-old native of Lanao, Basilan, who graduated magna cum laude from the Our Lady of Fatima University's College of Medicine in Valenzuela City, Jacinto flew to New York after taking his oath two years ago.

Jacinto, who finished his premed course of nursing at the Western Mindanao State University, cum laude, landed a job that dismally fell short of his expectations, way below what his placement firm, Sentosa Recruitment Agency had promised him.

Now, he and 27 other Filipino nurses recruited by Sentosa are locked in a legal battle in New York. Like Jacinto, most of the

NO GREENER A-6

STAR WANNABES
"Starstruck" winner Ryza Cenon (left) and finalist LJ Reyes greet the crowd outside the GMA 7 station in Quezon City during the launch of the nationwide star search. (Story on Page A10.) MARY LOUISE D. ALCAZAREN

Proclamation No. 1017: Policy matrix of slaughter

By Amando Doronila

DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS, the Arroyo administration has launched a crash program consisting of:

★ Crushing the communist insurgency in two years.

★ Killing of the second impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo within "six working session days" of the House of Representatives.

★ Filing at least 10 cases in 10 weeks against those responsible for the epidemic of killings of leftists and journalists.

★ Transforming the country into five super economic regions in the next three years.

All these programs have a deadline. With this agenda, the administration looks like a house on fire, or to use another metaphor, a bullet train.

This is neither the first Arroyo administration nor its first 100 days. All those launching platforms that could have set the national agenda taking off have been squandered and brushed down.

Mrs Arroyo is now in the mid-term of her second administration, and the nation stands squeezed in a gridlock. Her regime is stuck in a legitimacy conflict that has paralyzed all her initiatives and impaired its capacity to move the nation forward.

True, there has been economic growth [struggling to stay afloat

ANALYSIS

PROCLAMATION A-13

A2 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Gov't-MILF peace talks to resume 'in a few days'

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE PEACE TALKS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) are set to resume in the "next few days" in Kuala Lumpur.

From Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday the resumption of the GRP-MILF peace talks was disclosed to him by Ghazali Jaafar, who heads the government panel in the peace negotiations with the MILF.

"The government has made a proposal to resolve the impasse on territory and this will be discussed," Bunye said in reference to the contentious issue of "ancestral domain."

Abdullah was scheduled the talks "will continue to move forward in an early agreement," according to Bunye.

MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal confirmed the resumption of the peace talks.

Pin deal this year

But Iqbal said the MILF did not believe a final peace accord could be signed within the year as the government had predicted.

"We still want in Kuala Lumpur in the talks and we will discuss some important matters, but we don't believe that a peace deal is likely, but we may extend the peace talks beyond September," Iqbal said without giving specific dates.

Both sides will attempt to break an impasse on the issue of "ancestral domain" or areas in Mindanao that the MILF considers to be traditional Muslim territory Iqbal said.

"There are still issues concerning issues and chose are the scope of Muslim territories under the ancestral domain and how the government and the MILF would share the resources in those areas," he said.

Officials had acknowledged that the "ancestral domain issue" remained the only stumbling block to signing a peace deal with the MILF.

"We cannot see any piece deal by September, we even this year added the government and MILF agree on the proposals," Iqbal said.

The government and the MILF had managed to avoid skirmishes between their forces since forged a ceasefire agreement in 2001 and agreed to replace ceasefire monitors with foreign observers.

Late Friday, President Macapagal-Arroyo lauded the fact that the ceasefire agreement remains and to hold between the two sides.

Sweden and Japan announced they were are also sending teams to monitor the ceasefire.

Swedish officials on Friday met with MILF leaders in Magindanao to raise their country's decision to send a 16-man contingent which will join the international peace monitors in Mindanao.

Ambassador-at-large Lena Sundh and the Swedish ambassador to the Philippines Annika Markovic met with MILF chief Ebrahim Murad at Camp Darapanan in Sultan Sudarat, Maguindanao.

Agreement with MNLF

Earlier this week, Japan's minister of foreign affairs for South-east Asia Yoshi Hidetoshi visited Murad in Darapanan that Japan would mark a development aspect in resource relief, rehabilitation and development projects in the conflict-affected areas.

In his "Here Now On Palace" column in another daily, Bunye said the government was working "tirelessly and relentlessly" to achieve peace in Mindanao, and that included not only forging up a peace pact with the MILF but fully implementing the government's peace pact with the Moro National Liberation Front, which marked its 30th anniversary the other day. (See related story in Across the Nation, page A21.)

He said the "substantial program" had been made in phase one of the GRP-MILF peace agreement which covers security and political matters but "we have yet to see the full implementation of phase two of the agreement which consists of the economic package."

Creating a new paradigm

"While the government is working double-time with our international partners to have this realized, still much depends on the peace situation on the ground," Bunye said as he pointed out the need for the government to deal with terrorist groups in Mindanao as well as "assert" himself with our peace talks with the MILF."

Bunye said President Arroyo was determined to achieve peace in the south and that indeed the government was "creating a new paradigm for dealing with conflict through sustainable dialogue, global engagement and economic assistance."

"The President believes that if we succeed in Mindanao, we will offer the world a new way to resolve conflicts," he said.

"It would allow us to isolate true terrorists and wipe them from the map," he said. "Then we can working side by side with the latest technology to improve our military capabilities to terrorist response and, in real time, to threat, save the ill and Abu Sayyaf who stubbornly cling to their evasive weapons." With reports from *AFP* and *Jeofrey Maitem, inquirer Mindanao*

BAR EXAMINEES must battle a gauntlet of well-wishers wearing balloons and throwing confetti before they can get on the La Salle campus.

Balloons, bands, confetti mark start of bar exams

By Leila B. Salaverria

ASPIRING LAWYERS BEGAN the first of their four-day bar examinations yesterday, supervised by the scandal-tainting the government-administered board exams for nursing.

Amid a festive atmosphere complete with balloons, confetti and marching bands, the bar examinees expressed confidence that the integrity of the Supreme Court, which administers the bar exams, was uncorrupted enough that there would not be any irregularities unlike in the nursing licensure exams.

The results of the June 2006 nursing exams, conducted by the Professional Regulation Commission, have been under investigation following the revelation that questions in two portions of the exam had been leaked.

Students, nursing associations, college officials and the PRC have taken conflicting stands on whether the exams should be retaken or not.

"I don't think (the nursing exam controversy) will affect the bar exams. The Supreme Court has always maintained its integrity," Jun, a graduate of the University of the East, told the inquirer.

But, who was lining up outside the exam venue at De La Salle University on Taft Avenue, said the Supreme Court and the PRC have two different government bodies.

He acknowledged that last year, some had been hit with allegations of leakages in the past but, he said, the high rebounds in integrity remained intact.

Omar, a graduate of Holy Name University, agreed with Jun.

"It's the Supreme Court that oversees the bar exams. The bar exams and the board exams are different from each other," he said.

Other bar examinees said as much as they found no on Taft Avenue, which was closed to traffic from 4 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Some were still reading their books and reviewing their notes. Others were smiling after being seen off with hugs and kisses by families and friends. There were those who neither smiled nor spoke. They simply stared straight ahead, looking nervous or grim.

In contrast, members of the different law schools' bar exam spectators, composed of bar examinees and alumni, cheered and clapped loudly as graduates of their school walked by. They released balloons, threw confetti, brought along "bet-A-thon" dancers and hired marching bands to lend support to their examinees.

Last year's bar topnotchers Jean de Jesuerta, nurse to cheer on her fellow UP Law grads.

But top members from San Beda College came in red T-shirts and those red and white cookies—the school's colors. They proudly made their presence felt, despite the dispute between school officials and its former law professors.

Twenty professors had asked the Supreme Court to lock into alleged irregularities in the examinee process in the college that supposedly allowed six students to obtain their law degrees and qualify to take the bar exams.

A record number of graduates, some 6,344 in all, signed up to take the bar exams this year.

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Presidential award sought for Pinoy who found red spot on Jupiter

THE PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration has urged Malacañang to confer the highest presidential honors on the amateur Filipino astronomer who discovered the Red Spot Junior on the planet Jupiter.

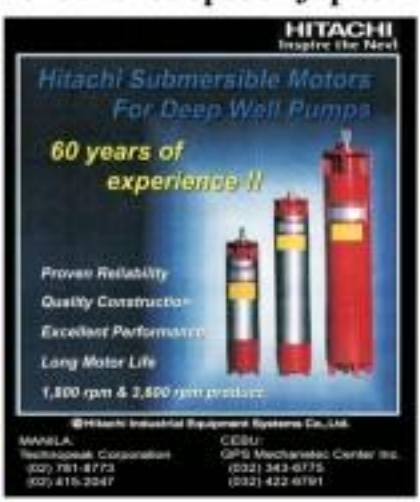
Pagasa-space science chief Bernardo Antiano said he had written the Palace recommending that Christopher Go of Cebu be awarded the Order of Lakandula, the same award given to boxing champ Manny Pacquiao.

Go, a 1993 Physics graduate of the University of San Carlos and an avid observer of Jupiter, discovered that the brown spot on the planet, which was previously white in color, had turned reddish.

The Red Spot Junior, estimated to be about the size of the earth, is believed to have been created by the merging of three white storms on Jupiter.

Go's observation, which was reported to the Jupiter Section of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, has sparked renewed interest in the planet.

"I think his contribution to science is even greater than the feats of Manny Pacquiao, so he deserves the award," Antiano said. Rimsha S. Abreu



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2006

Lapus: Past ills caused sorry state of education

By Jhoon Paya

A "CONFLUENCE OF FACTORS IN THE past decades has led to the present sorry state of the country's educational system, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said yesterday.

"These factors include a weak economy, low revenues resulting in fiscal deficits, low salaries, escalated population growth, severe private sector and teacher shortages, (removal of the NEE, Diamond College (entrance fraud), teacher competency mismatches, the chopping up of a formerly integrated education system, sufferage duties of teachers, unserious loans to teachers, expand (through systematic payroll deductions, etc.," Lapus said.

Efforts welcomed

In a statement, Lapus also welcomed efforts by the business sector to improve the education system.

But he stressed that efforts were already being implemented to improve the quality of the education system. He said the Arroyo administration had made education a priority.

"Government has categorically declared education together with infrastructure as its cornerstones in spending and focus as evidence by its budget proposals," Lapus said.

"Together with a volunteered income and crucial private sector support, we are optimistic that we will successfully embark on this renovation job. It will not be a walk in the park and we will be welcoming the battle," he said.

Bridge program

Lapus also agreed with the businessmen's call for the revival of the pre-tertiary bridge program.

Members of the Philippine Business for Education (PBED), a newly organized group of chief executive officers (CEOs) and chief operating officers (COOs) of various corporations, have sought the adoption of a basic education reform agenda and a globally responsive post-secondary education system.

This, they said, would make every school perform better and have teachers to continuously improve their teaching skills. They also called for development of the curriculum and extension of the length of formal basic education from the current 10 years to 12.

Stiff opposition

PBED's proposal to improve the quality of education calls for the re-establishment of the pre-tertiary bridge program which encountered stiff opposition when it was first introduced several years ago.

PBED noted that the Philippines will lose the opportunity "to make the most of a large and growing population of hard-working, English-literate and relatively educated people."

What needs to be done, the group said, is to broaden and deepen this competitive advantage.

PBED believes in "an education system that is able to meet the demands of a national effort to successfully compete in the global economy based on the competitiveness of human resources."

Functionally literate

The group stressed that in the level of basic education, schools must enable young learners to master basic competencies to become "functionally literate."

In post-secondary education, PBED said learning institutions must be able to develop skilled, professional and competitive people by arousing, preserving and communicating knowledge.

PBED also formed effective business-educational council to address the apparent decline in the quality of education in the Philippines as reflected in recent results of the National Achievement Tests and other examinations here and abroad.

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Prov'l schools veering away from nursing after scandal

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY – SOME COLLEGES and universities in the provinces are putting nursing in the backseat in favor of agriculture and computer courses.

This appeared to be the sentiment directly cited schools were taking in Northern Luzon. Students flagging the Nursing and Midwifery, based on their output at a conference last week that need to match would labor trends with college graduates, most alternative leading advocate Rosey Dondero.

Dondero heads the Center for Learning and Teaching Styles (CLTS, Philippines, which organized the conference attended by representatives of 180 universities and colleges. The group endorsements leading approaches.

"We did not embark on the conference by promoting one course over another. But the participating universities were personally concerned about the long-run impact on the market of the ebbing scandal for the Jaro nursing board examinations here," Dondero said.

"The CLTS wanted to promote instead a business management approach to university courses or business. Nursing may be a world demand now but after the nursing scandal, what happens? I have two nephews who took this exam and passed, and they are now adversely affected by the controversy," he said.

He said the world offered a much bigger labor pie than the dive nursing got. He cited a Department of Labor and Employment survey that placed agribusiness and computer technology at the top of industries that would require a huge labor force in the future.

But many colleges, he observed, had jumped on the band-wagon and have focused on popular courses like nursing. He said it was unrealistic to see a computer or school offering nursing courses, but such innovations must be weighed against the sustainability of the "fad."

"Schools must begin to operate like a business that offers knowledge," said Dondero, referring to the advocacy of Education Secretary Jesli Lapus.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 4, 2006
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Cor 2:1-5
Gospel: Luke 4:16-30

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Jesus then rolled the scroll and found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and new sight to the blind, to free the oppressed and announce the Lord's year of favor."

Jesus then rolled up the scroll, gave it to the attendant and sat down, while the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he said to them, "Today these prophetic words come true even as you listen."

All agreed with him and were lost in wonder, voicing their appreciation of the grace of God. Nevertheless they asked, "Who is this but Joseph's son?" To be said, "Doubtless you will quote me the saying: Doctor, heal yourself! Do here in your native town what we have heard you did in Capernaum."

Jesus replied, "No prophet is honored in his own country. Truly I say to you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens withheld rain for three years and six months and a great famine spread over the whole land. Yet Elijah was sent to one of them, but to a widow at Zarephath, in the country of Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha, the prophet; and no one was healed except Naaman, the Syrian."

On hearing these words, the whole assembly became indignant. They rose up and brought him out of the town, to the edge of the hill on which their town was built, intending to throw him down the cliff. But he passed through their midst and went his way.

Commentary

We are reminded of the core heart of our belief and salvation—Jesus Christ crucified—who Pharisee Jacobs "a law and a stumbling" refuses to the saved and body of Jesus, the power of God in the human nature. This will no longer the blood of God made flesh in Jesus, and this is why we, with Jesus, are baptized for "to bring good news to the poor. And, with Jesus, we will most likely be rejected by family, neighbor, and fellow believers. If we live in the power of God, the Spirit, as prophets, then we will share in Jesus' fate of rejection. But we will also share their glad tidings, we have our true God-life, the life of Jesus Christ Lord.

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Video shows hole in bow of oil tanker

A MEMBER of the Philippine Coast Guard sprays substantial dispersant over the oil slick area.

From page A1

pristine marine reserves and white sand beaches popular with tourists.

The BDC equipped with powerful cameras and an advanced sonar system, began filming on Thursday after it found the timber sitting 640 meters at the bottom of the sea and leaning slightly to the right.

The Mitrel Black crew was now focusing on finding out how much could now left in the cushion vessel and what must be done to refloat the hull. Beautelal says would depend on how much crude remained in the tanks.

The board was told that experts were consulting using ultrasound equipment to determine the amount of crude oil still in the vessel.

The report said it was likely that because the tanks had a pressure vacuum they had retained the oil inside.

The video captured a "triangular puncture" on the port side of the vessel below the water line, according to the report who said the hole was "consistent" with a floating container ran. He testified that he thought the hole 1 hit the object after a left shudder in Bolo.

There was also a "crease" on the shell plating on the vessel's starboard. This might have been caused by the impact of the vessel hitting the seafloor.

Seen in Iloilo port

There was no previous testimony about the hole 1 having an object or a cargo container out, but its skipper, Capt. Norbert Aguas, had earlier said that there was upward angle around to the Iloilo port where the Solar 1 had taken during.

Aguas had told the inquiry that on Aug. 10, the Solar 1 started taking in water during stormy weather and began listing on the starboard side. It compounded to distract at an angle of 15 to 20 degrees. Aguas then jumped out the seawater and reported a coordinator.

The captain said he decided to retrieve to the open sea after the weather cleared and there was an expert of a typhoon. But after passing Guimaras on Aug. 11, huge waves pounded the vessel.

Aguas said he ordered the vessel turned around. That was when huge waves slapped it on its starboard side. It then tilted, started to take in water, and turned the crew to abandon ship. Two crewmen were reported missing.

Solar 1 largely intact

The report testified that, according to the BOI findings, the Solar 1 was largely intact.

He said that its slavery cables could be relied underneath the vessel to lift it. However, he said the operation would be too expensive and risky considering that the recovery also could cause more oil to leak. There was also the problem of finding a vessel with 750 meters of cable to lift the tanker today.

The office options discussed in the inquiry was siphoning off the remaining crude oil from the tanks, either through the vessel or by punching a hole in the hull and sucking out oil that was heavier.

Marine rehab, recovery may take 10-25 yrs, say UP experts

By Marnie P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

GUIMARAS ISLAND—GIVEN AS MUCH AS 10 years of this island grapple with the loss of their livelihood and suffer from diseases due to exposure to the oil that leaked from the Solar 1 tanker, experts say the full effect of the oil spill's impact on the environment and rich marine life for a long time.

Scientists at the University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV) said the rehabilitation and recovery of marine life contaminated by the oil slick could take 10 to 20 years.

"Ten years is very sharp and optimistic and it will not be to the pre-oil spill status," said Dr. Somerwynne Jacinto, head of the UPV marine science institute's monitoring unit.

The research team is composed mostly of university professors conducted a detailed study on Guimaras Island in Iloilo after typhoon Reming of the National Power Corp. ran aground off the island in December last year, spilling more than 200,000 liters of oil.

The UPV is also part of the group formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to conduct a rapid assessment of the oil, and will assist in the oil spill affected marine ecosystem.

Jacinto, an expert on mangroves, said the island's mangroves bore the brunt of the oil spill.

Bunker fuel oil has coated most of the trees because the oil slick hit the shoreline during high tide.

Jacinto said that would cause greater stress to mangroves because the bunker fuel oil blocks their breathe or breathing pores. The trees could suffocate and eventually die.

Gov. JC Rahmars Nava said the oil slick had contaminated or destroyed some 220 km of mangroves, 45 hectares of mangroves and 50 ha of seaweed plantations.

Up to 98 percent of the 96-ha mangroves forest on Taklong Island close to coastal with oil-sludge, according to Jacinto.

National marine reserve

The island is part of Hamra Valencia town, the hardest hit of the five municipalities of Guimaras. It is home to the UPV marine biological station and the 1,143-ha Taklong Island National Marine Reserve (Tamar).

The marine reserve hosts 22 of the 25 existing varieties of mangroves in the Philippines, including the hybrid Bruguiera hainesii (Bakhaw hybrid). Many of the mangroves in the area are 50 to 75 years old.

Jacinto said the UPV fish farm could not use it the mangroves would survive because no study has been conducted on how the specific species of mangroves would react to oil spills.

"The (bunker fuel) has not settled on the bottom of the sea and it's too early to conclude on the comprehensive impact of the oil spill on marine life," he said.

Hardest hit

The fish farm is focusing on Tamar because it is one of the worst hit areas and is host to a variety of species, according to UPV Chancellor Soccn Agulto. "It's definitely (a) huge risk," he said.

Agulto said the biophysical assessment would be completed within the week and the assessment of the socioeconomic impact would start by next week.

The damage to Tamar and other areas in Guimaras will affect other areas in the region, said Hernan Rempit, tourism head of the UPV marine biological station.

The marine reserve serves as a fish sanctuary and is home to 30 fish species.

While the oil spill will not result in a massive fish kill because fish can move to avoid oil spill areas, it will take time for the various fish species to return to the area.

But scientists fear of some life that are not visible will die from the oil spill.

There have been reports of dying or dead coral reefs, marine turtles, mollusks and shellfish.

The spill has also affected sea cucumbers, sea urchins and sea grass.

Interdependence

Jacinto said the oil spill would disturb or cut off the interdependence of marine life.

The experts are also concerned over the impact of the oil slick on plankton, because like the coral reefs, plankton are not easily seen by the naked eye. Plankton, which are very small plants and animals, from the base of the marine food pyramid.

Jacinto said the long-term use of huge volumes of chemical dispersants could also affect the ecosystem, adding that there is no study on the impact of dispersants on the environment, especially on mangroves.

But he said the most important concern now was the removal of the sunken vessel, which is tied to oil could contaminate the hulls of its cargo of 2 million liters of bunker fuel oil.

The location of the sunken tanker was confirmed by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of a Japanese survey ship, but the Philippine Coast Guard said the operation to remove the tanker or siphon its contents would take weeks.

Jacinto said this would make oil plans inconclusive.

"As long as the threat is still there, we can't really plan for recovery. It will be guiltative," he said.

'Honesty teams' to police cops

TCL PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Police is ready to deploy "honesty teams" around the country to arrest policemen involved in extortion, bribery and other crimes.

PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said yesterday the deployment of the teams would encourage the public to help police authorities identify the few "rogues in uniform" who defy regulations.

"Despite the several organizational and internal reform measures instituted, there are still some personnel who undertake activities that undermine the organization's good accomplishments and the credibility it has gained through the years," Calderon said.

Earlier, Calderon said he would show "no mercy" to police personnel involved in irregularities.

He said he had ordered officers in every regional office to set up a team to monitor the activities of policemen assigned to highly-visible posts, such as traffic enforcement and patrol operations, and to apprehend officers who lose documents and firearms.

Calderon gave specific instructions to the honesty teams to ignore than "rogues," or merchants transporting goods to market, are protected against "lotong," or extortion, by policemen, which makes the products costlier.

Accordingly, he said, the teams were specifically enjoined to target crooked traffic enforcers who carry out unwarrants and those who demand protection money from transport operators in exchange for leniency.

Calderon also announced his office would act on public complaints sent through its mobile phone hotline, Txt PNP 2000, and phoned-in and walk-in complaints received by the Complaints Referral and Action Center in Camp Crame.

Chief Supt. Ismael Marasco was designated head of the complaints clerk.

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9/11 kin illegally in US uneasy over riches

From page A1

the sons of those three people, who are still living in or near New York City, feel they can publicly identify themselves.

"I can't dream very high, because I have no papers," said one widow from Ecuador who, like the others, agreed to be interviewed on the condition that she not be named.

"You're always afraid of exposure. It's a horrible feeling. But I don't want to go back to my country. I know my husband's spirit is here," she added.

After the US Congress created the victims' fund, promising payouts in return for an agreement not to sue the airlines or other interests, the officials who drafted the fund's rules explicitly stated that foreigners and illegal immigrants would be eligible.

And immigration authorities announced that they would not use information provided to the fund to track people down.

But the families who received money could still face deportation if their identities came to light in some other way, according to their lawyers.

In the end, the fund distributed 11 awards to the survivors of illegal immigrants. All those victims had worked at the restaurant Windows on the World.

Although the victims had earned modest wages, many were upwardly mobile and supported relatives back home, factors that sometimes motivated their awards. Their awards ranged from $973,000 to $4.1 million.

The 11 families could return to their native lands with their money but feel tethered here, unwilling to leave the country where their sponsor worked and died, and determined to give their children a chance to grow up here.

"I have half my life here," one widow said. "And my husband is here." New York Times News Service

A PLANE crashes into one of the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City in this photo taken on Sept. 11, 2001.

No greener pasture for topnotcher

From page A1

nurses are licensed lawyers in the Philippines. They are now deployed at various health facilities in New York.

Her fellow medtech colleagues complained that they did not get the promised salary of between $11 and $15 an hour.

They also failed to get other benefits, which were specified in their employment contract, like relocation and housing allowance, free malpractice insurance, free airfare from Manila to New York, per diem cash for eight shift duty and flexible work schedule from eight to 12 hours.

Living in abandoned houses

Aside from being underpaid, the nurses complained of being overworked. Each of them is required to attend to 32 patients round the clock, instead of the ideal ratio of six patients per nurse.

Most of such in the Big Apple, Jacinto and his colleagues now live "in leaking abandoned houses," honored partially in dark alleys of the city, which they had to borrow flashlights around for utensils, chairs and other things thrown away" by other people.

This was how lawyers Felix Halcyon in New York and Tita Calmiquing in Manila painted the lives of Jacinto and the other nurses who landed in legal limbo and, sought legal help to reassure their contract with Jenkins and its US-based partner, Interac Inc. Philippines.

Viviana Jose in Manila and Joel with Jess Aquilino Pimentel Jr. on Aug. 27 to seek help in protesting the local visa assistant agency.

Cabinet official intervenes

As a result of the complaint, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) suspended the license of the local Services Firm to May but the penalty was lifted less than a month later after a "personal Cabinet official" intervened on its behalf.

Pimentel is set to deliver a privilege speech today at the Senate not only in defense the plight of the nurses, but also to denounce and name the Cabinet official.

Underscoring the issues, Pimentel said, the Cabinet official, whom he described as an "all-around functionary" of President Macapagal-Arroyo, pulled strings to put "some-no-name" in the POEA and the Philippine Consulate in New York to force the nurses to back off from the case.

"I cannot understand how in the world a department secretary could have the gall to act in a manner that in effect obstructs the interest of justice and causes prejudice in the interest of the people he is sworn to serve," the senator told the Inquirer.

"That is something that we probably will never know unless the government whose purchase by the suppression of information knows no bounds and whose desire to continue the people equals the dangerously deceptive record of the martial law regime," he said.

4 from Mindanao

Pimentel showed particular interest in the case because four of the nurses hailed from Mindanao. In addition, the senator, who is from Mindanao, was the guest of honor at the oath-taking of Jacinto and other new doctors in March 2006.

Jacinto was a consistent scholar and honor student. He scored 88.75 percent in the medical boards, topping the field of 3,615 examinees, only 948 of whom had passed.

"While it pains me to do so," Jacinto would later tell the Inquirer, "I'm looking forward to going abroad and see for the opportunity past. If only the [job] market for medicine graduates was good here."

Why it's summertime again this September

From page A1

sphere's Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the summer this heat would linger for at least another three to five days as the southwest monsoon which had caused off and no precipitation was in the horizon to trigger a cold spell.

"It will continue to be hot. It's going to feel as if it's summer again," Pagasa weather bureau chief Nathaniel Cruz said in a phone interview yesterday.

Pagasa's five-day weather forecast from Sept. 3-7 showed Metro Manila could get as hot as 33 degrees Celsius, while Cagayan Valley up north would be scorching at 35 degrees.

Rain next week

Besides Baguio City, where temperatures will range from 14-24 degrees Celsius, the weather is cool/get for the rest of Luzon would be 26 to 30 degrees Celsius, Cruz said.

"We're still supposed to be at the peak of the typhoon season, so it should be raining again in a week," Cruz said.

"If in the next two weeks, there are still no tropical storms, it could be a precursor to something abnormal. Our forecasters are watching out," he said.

Pagasa said the monsoon break—a period in the season when there are no rains or weaker thunderstorms associated with sustained monsoon winds—signaled the gradual transition to the northeastern monsoon season, which he said was "more significant and more dangerous" for the public.

Tropical storms

"There is a bigger chance for tropical storms during the months of September and October in all the coastal and northern parts of the country, so this would affect the highly populated areas," Cruz said.

Only two tropical storms are expected this month and some thunderstorms when the easterly winds affect the Philippines in October. The northeasterly winds would be active by November.

Up to 10 tropical storms and typhoons enter the Philippine area of responsibility every year, the highest occurrence of severe weather disturbances in this part of the world.

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Line forms early for thousands of 'starstruck' kids

By Nikki Valera
Entertainment

LIKE MANY MOTHERS, Jessie de Jesus believes her child is a star.

An ardent ABS-CBN supporter, the 40-year-old housewife always takes her daughter Vanessa Jean, 8, and up-and-coming singer Jessa Zaragoza to Quezon City where the GMA-7 television network is located, to obtain an autograph from Sunday "Starstruck The Next Level," the children's homegrown reality-based fun search.

Speaking on Wednesday, De Jesus told the Inquirer that her daughter had wanted to join the auditions when it was launched in 2005.

"At that time, kasi nasa sa high school and I felt she wasn't ready for it yet," she said.

Three years later, mother and child, now 16, were among the early birds to join the crowd of wannabes who trooped to GMAT.

De Jesus said of her daughter, "I've seen her develop and mature as a performer. Definitely, she has a chance. Yes, she can be a star."

Jessa said it had always been her dream to become a performer.

"I don't feel that I'm a whole person if I don't perform," she said. "Performing is my life. Now I'm into cheerleading in school (Perpetual College). I got a scholarship through cheerleading."

Male-oriented

The auditions of applicants, born for the "teens" search series, the main event for GMA-7's Sunday "SOP" and "SOP Express," which were aired live from four locations—the GMA-7 studios, SM City Cebu, Ayala Center Cebu and SM City Davao.

By noon, the number of "Starstruck" hopefuls lining up for applications forms on Anonas Street had already reached to about 2,000.

"I even slept here," said Aaron Castro, 20, a Filipino.

A high school dropout, Castro said he wanted to join the search to show off his talents.

"I am proud of my acting, singing and dancing," he said. "When I was in school and the teachers held auditions for singer-player, I would always be chosen for the lead role."

Steven Udani, 16, quit college at the University of St. Jude to finish the "Starstruck" auditions before the end of the queue door I was.

"I want to try my luck, but it's OK if I'm not taken. I'll just try again," she said in "conglish" (English-Filipino) with a pout for the cameras.

More expected

At the end of "SOP Express" at 2:30 p.m., producers, about 2,000 people would have to file applications from in Ali City Cebu. The same number trooped to Ali City Davao and about 6,000 turned up in front of Ali City Davao, according to "SOP" executive producer Bella Manalo.

"We expected more people would audition like [on] cause we expanded the age range of the contestants from 15-17 to 16-21," said Jessie Rico, "Starstruck" production manager.

From the thousands of applicants, 100 would be chosen for a series of auditions to be held nationwide. The list would be trimmed to 40 from which 16 finalists would be chosen to compete with each other for four top spots—a love team, a host, a number one, and a television commentator.

The winners will each receive P1 million and a one-year exclusive contract with GMAT.

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No coup attempt, only a drill, says military

By Alcuin Papa

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE Philippines yesterday said it was not "direct" when it conducted coup defense drills after rumors of a new coup attempt circulated on Friday.

Capt. Ramon Zagala, AFP public information office deputy chief, clarified that last Saturday's drill at the military's headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo was part of "procedures."

"All military camps in the country have camp defense drills. This is part of procedures of the military organization. As a matter of pattern, these are announced. But sometimes they are announced as an exam. And you have our soldiers wear in times of emergency, that it's normal. Yes, civilian, this might not be a normal thing," Zagala said.

He said the drills were meant to sharpen the military's response in the event of a coup d'etat.

"Any group can take advantage of any situation. The military leadership is based here, in Camp Aguinaldo. So we need to be ready. Again, it's normal. Every unit in the military conducts drills. Sa amin, kasama, ito, ang camp defense drills," Zagala said.

"We have to be prepared for any threat. We should not worry. There is no coup," he added.

Zagala also denied there was any direct threat from terrorists. "As of the present, there is none. We have not received any report on that effect from."

On Saturday, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. ordered the drill after rumors circulated on Friday that elite troops were again getting "restless."

Speculations of another coup could have been prompted by the anomaly of over 100 Asian Rangers at the Special Operations Command headquarters at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija on Friday.

The troops boarded a C-130 military transport plane bound for Iloilo where they were deployed to augment Marine and Army battalions battling the Abu Sayyaf group.

Camp commander Brig. Gen. Alfredo Cayetano, who was reassigned to head "Task Force Aguinaldo," directed the drill at Aguinaldo that began at 7 a.m.

All gates were closed as hundreds of soldiers stationed at Aguinaldo rushed to the grandstand where a command post had been set up.

Within 17 minutes, hundreds of soldiers, fire trucks, ambulances and two K-350 armored personnel carriers were assembled on the parade ground.

But Cayetano was disappointed with the slow response time since the camp had been told about the drill the day before.

He said the next drill would be conducted on a weekday and would involve non-military personnel.

Rev. Salik Sinkiat; 76

REV. SALIK C. SINGNE, former director of Ivisan College in Ivisan Pontevedra, Capiz, died last Friday at the age of 76.

He is survived by his children Leonard, Israel and Bernalliet Grace, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

His remains lie at Marian Memorial Chapels along Marcos Highway in Antipolo City. Interment will be on Saturday at 2 p.m. at Rizaville Gate 3 in Antipolo.

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OPINION

Vol. 23 No. 268

Everyone's business

IT IS NO SECRET THAT SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S biggest corporations, plus a host of smaller ones, disburse good money for education-related purposes. We do not simply mean the roundtable practice of sending promising employees to institutions both here and abroad for short, intensive, advanced courses, as company expense; these are educational investments necessary for corporate growth, though they also often redound to the country's benefit.

EDITORIAL

We mean the practice of investing in education. Bolstering professorial chairs to allow some of the country's most senior academics to earn additional income (at least at the same level as a junior manager in a multinational); donating textbooks and computers and other resources to cash-strapped schools; building and providing classrooms, as the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been doing for years; or even, as in the case of the Metrobank Foundation, honoring the country's best teachers year after year.

Former Finance Secretary Ramon del Rosario Jr. estimates that the business community spends as much as P1.2 billion a year on various education-related projects. (We think the total may be higher, if the classroom-building and similar initiatives of the Chinese business associations are also taken into account.) But it is possible that business, in fact, is not getting its money's worth.

Many of the companies which sponsor education projects do so independently of one another. No overall strategy binds the projects together. "Like our NGO counterparts, [we] achieve mixed results," Del Rosario said. "It is time for business to act in a better coordinated and more unified manner." In management speak: "We must build synergies and push for genuine and sustainable reform hinged on performance and accountability across the education sector."

Think of the possibilities. Perhaps a comprehensive teacher-recognition program, building on the Metrobank success story, can encourage more outstanding students to try teaching, and more outstanding teachers to stay in academe. What if, by pooling its resources together, the business community can help steal a hundred high-potential, high-performance teachers every year to study (here, intensive, advanced courses in the best schools)? What if other companies based in the region can build on the success of existing recognition programs by hosting the program winners in a lecture series in their own areas—and thus help spread both the good news of teaching and the profession's best practices?

Think of the possibilities. Perhaps the business community and the Department of Education, in close partnership, can make a worse out of necessity and design an overall plan for privately funded classroom-building projects. Since private enterprise will continue building classrooms anyway, perhaps it would be best to reorganize all such efforts into, say, a uniform term plan. What if certain companies, which believe in investing in the communities they are located in, were to "adopt" entire areas, with final responsibility for meeting infrastructure requirements?

In the words of Del Rosario, who spoke on behalf of the newly formed Philippine Business for Education initiative: "Our corporations must begin adopting not just schools but communities. We must unleash the power of our resources for education on local levels by working hand in hand with principals and teachers, district heads, local governments, parent associations, school boards, barangay officials and local NGO partners in education." Think of the possibilities.

"Education is everyone's business," Del Rosario said at last week's Pilkil forum. He got that right. The businessmen who formed Pilkil were driven to work together because of the continuing decline in the quality of Philippine education. They offered a four-part plan, but it may be that the best thing they can do for the state of education is to relentlessly think long-term. That would mean putting pressure (much of it not unwelcome, we are certain) on the Deped, to never again sacrifice long-term educational objectives for short-term goals. That would also mean investing primarily in the very young, those who are still in grade school. Businessmen know that. In developing human resources, there's no such thing as a quick fix.

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Gov't lawyers made a mistake in Piatco case

MALACAÑANG SAYS THE GOVERNMENT IS ready with the P1 billion it has been required to pay Piatco for the Ninoy Aquino International Terminal 3, but that a temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by the Court of Appeals is blocking the payment.

Wait a minute, not so fast, says former SEC Director Atty. Emmanuel Lagbayan. Consultant Jhun Federez Yaney: The correct amount, he says, is not P1 billion, or $20 million, which is what Piatco is asking for, but only $175 million, the actual cost of the building. It would take another $150 million to operate the terminal.

$565 million is a long way from $175 million. The government would be wasting taxpayers' money if it paid the bigger amount, Yaney says. How did the price escalate that much?

Because the government failed to buy its own property, Yaney explains. The Supreme Court has ordered the government to pay Piatco "just compensation" for the terminal. The question is how much is that "just compensation"?

Yaney believes the government should pay only for the uncompleted terminal building, which cost $175 million to build. But Piatco is charging $565 million, which includes payment for the land. But the land already belongs to the government. It used to be part of the NAIA complex. Why should the government pay for something it already owns?

Because government lawyers made a mistake when they filed a case for expropriation. They should have sued for a simple ejectment case against Piatco, Yaney says. By invoking the illegal expropriation case, the lawyers of administration virtually recognized Piatco's "ownership" of Terminal 3, Yaney explains.

Furthermore, the expropriation of Terminal 3 destroys the Philippine government's defense in the $426 million claim of Fraport in Washington, D.C. and the $565-million claim of Piatco before the arbitration tribunal in Singapore. Also, it disregards the $16-million claim of Takenaka as the general contractor of the BOT project.

"The expropriation will contravene the 2003 decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Agan vs Piatco, declaring that Piatco is not entitled to the award of Terminal 3 because the BOT [build-operate-transfer] agreements entered with government violated the Constitution, the law and public policy," Yaney says.

"In the same 2003 decision," he continues, "the Supreme Court stressed that to allow Piatco to profit from Terminal 3 instead of imposing upon it the sanctions allowed by law is to encourage lawlessness."

Since Piatco is a builder in bad faith, the reasonable reimbursement it is entitled to would even be much lower than the estimated $175 million, he added.

In RP vs Chiquiar, the Supreme Court pointed out that if the government had not recognize Pantaleon Chiquiar's ownership, "there would have been no impediment to seizing control through ordinary ejectment proceedings."

So why is the Arroyo administration willing to pay $565 million for something that cost only $175 million or less?

Because, Yaney explains, in contrast that $565 million demand of Piatco would mean opening the Aero books—to determine what would be just compensation. And that would expose a can of worms—the graft and corruption that have characterized the construction of Terminal 3 and the public officials who received kickbacks. The administration's actions on the Piatco case therefore appears to be a screen up to hide the involvement of government officials in the mess, he says.

Yaney believes that the operators of Terminal 3 will eventually be given back to Piatco under a new agreement, and that the present court cases is just a "move-move."

"The right thing [ousting investor-vandal] pay $565 million for a structure that only cost $175 million to build and another $150 million to make operational," he says.

"Since the government does not have the money to pay the amount to Piatco and Congress has not appropriated any amount for the construction and acquisition of the BOT project, the government will tell Piatco to go ahead and operate Terminal 3 and recover some investment plus reasonable profit. After some time, the terminal will be transferred to the government. By that time, the terminal shall have been already run down," Yaney says.

So it's clear as crystal water: The P1 billion payment ordered by Judge Irene R. Mopas of the Pasay City regional trial court is only the initial amount. The final amount can run to billions more of taxpayers' money. Not bad for Piatco for very bad for the Filipino taxpayers.

Anybody wants some questions about the judge's decision?

1. Why did the judge allow the expropriation of a property already owned by the government, without requiring from the beneficiaries of the expropriation?

2. Why did he allow the payment of billions of pesos to the owners of Piatco, who are themselves being prosecuted for waste and corruption precisely because of the Terminal 3 mess?

3. Why did he "reward" Piatco when, according to the Supreme Court, "allowing it to profit from Terminal 3 instead of imposing the stiffest sanctions permissible under the law is to encourage lawless"?

4. Why did he recognize a company that refused to post a cash bond for refund of the investment and projected earnings in Terminal 1 in the staggering amount of $360 million before a foreign tribunal, but refuses to submit to the jurisdiction of the Philippine expropriation court?

Is the Arroyo administration giving Piatco the better deal which is making the Filipino people?

Yeng is asking.

Command responsibility

IN 1986, A COUPLE OF TERMS AFTER JIMMY Stewart Brad of Honolulu found Marcos guilty of the torture and killings of thousands of political activists during martial law, Marcos appeared in the case in Honolulu, California. Their lawyer challenged said choice for finding Marcos guilty on the ground that Brad had given the jury questionable instructions. Specifically Brad had instructed the jury that they could find Marcos guilty if: "(1) Marcos directed, ordered, completed with, or aided the military in crimes, summary execution and 'disappearance' or (2) if Marcos knew of such conduct by the military and failed to use his power to prevent it."

Marcos' lawyer argued that American law does not support the second condition, and that "no international law decision ... has ever imposed liability upon a foreign official on these grounds."

The Honolulu court denied the appeal, saying those two conditions of "command responsibility" are in fact well borne out both by US and international law. It cited the US Supreme Court ruling on Yamashita:

"[T]he ... charge is like failure of (the) petitioner as an army commander to control the operations of the members of his command by 'permitting them to commit extensive and widespread atrocities ...' If the latter was the supposed duty its violation is to be punished through the control of the operations of war by commanders who are to some extent responsible for their subordinates ... (P)roximity of location or common membership justify imposition of responsibility, at the time specified, 'any military governor of the Philippines, as well as commanders of the Japanese forces, an affirmative duty to take such measures as were within his power and appropriate in the circumstances to protect (prisoners) of war and the civilian population.'"

If the Hilao Commission is serious about its mark, all it has to do is go by this luminous precedent. Forget arresting GMA's cronies. Just summon GMA herself to answer for the "extensive and widespread atrocities" being wreaked by her troops.

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THERE'S THE RUB

Comrades de Quiros

Congress, of course, was quick to counteract her feeble blustery in this respect. That was one of the issues brought against her by those seeking her impeachment. Well, we have a saying in this country which is: The hardest person to wake up is the one who is pretending to be asleep. Might as well try rowing someone who has passed out in drunken stupor, you'll have better chances.

The pro-GMA majority argued in a stance so evasive that there was nothing to censure GMA to the killings. Of course, you won't find any written or verbal order given by her directly. It is this, Jose Jovito Palparan to batter and murder activists (never suspected NPA—which—of are the "Hello Garci" tapes she would have become more wary of expressing her murderous desires carelessly for then you won't find the same thing either from Malacañan. He never existed. Palparan is a product of the mind of those trying to torture, maliciously remove, or erase from the face of the earth any trace of suspected rebels. That is something you might expect from those who had been indicted for malice aforethought—and thanks God he was not. But that is not something you might expect from Hitler or GMA.

Thank God, however, as Judge Bell's ruling reminds us—a ruling GMA herself has gone by, as must by her current efforts to extract from the Marcos estate the sum demanded by Bell for the indemnification of the torture-victims...there is another criterion for liability or culpability in society. That is the bell's tolling—for the society is happening and, while handing the power to do so, the failure or unwillingness to stop it.

Does GMA know the identity is happening?

Are you kidding me? At the very least, the killings—of activists and journalists—began long before the unleashed her "war against the NPA." The program was a killing spree which had begun to alarm both the international press, media and human rights community. The "war," an openly cynical one launched against an enemy that posed little threat physically; indeed, that had been GMA's creation in her quest for the presidency...she anxiously conspired with them to start frag, a fact that he explained to my utter definition of the "enemy" should easily lend her to that category... to merely reason to perpetrate the killings of activists and media.

At the very most, as that last part suggests, Palparan has never hidden his homicidal bent. He has boasted about it, defying his critics, who are abused by the police people who call themselves human rights. He has openly offered a death to the enemy. He has said publicly that if you get shot in the company of a suspected NPA killed, that's your fault. He has said subtly that he does not see any difference between media and suspected terrorists, they are all the same. That is a recipe for a bloodbath. No, that is an engraved invitation to genocide.

Has GMA tried to stop this?

Are you holding me responsible for the murder of Bishop Alberto? Or of Bautista, people unpenetrated innocent until proven guilty, she has told Palparan to keep up the good work. She has not told Palparan that in a democracy there is a distinction between combatants and noncombatants, soldier and civilian, people who believe in Mass and people who take up arms to build a communistic state; she has told Pal. parun, he like she, is one piece of work. She has not told Palparan that in a democracy the police are supposed to kill first and question later (it is all those not dead); she has told him up he would not believe the nation.

What the Hilao Commission needs is not one, it is not. The proof is plain sight. The question is not whether or not that constitutes the she or guilt-or-but is. The question is whether or not that nomination has the eyes, or balls, to see it.

The saga of RA 6735

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

REPUBLIC ACT 6735, OF COURSE, IS THE SUBJECT debated last on constitutional amendment by initiative and referendum. It was examined three times before the Supreme Court in 1997—three times it was rejected. Now, nine years later, it is on the verge of being examined again. If the time would allow it, there would be another one 10 years from now! These people will ask, "Whatever happened to the republican clause?"

I myself, however, am of the view that the validity of the controversial provisions of RA 6735 should have been upheld in 1997. In addition, the original decision had also overlooked by saying that Congress should not worry any longer in complying with the constitutional mandate to provide for the implementation/exercise of the right of the people under that section." But Congress has not tried and I now foresee the same as can be.

Of the justices who deliberated on RA 6735 in 1997, only Chief Justice Antonio Panganiban and Justice Antonio Puno are still in the Court, both of them staunch defenders of the sufficiency of RA 6735. I doubt that they will change their mind. But there are 13 other justices in the Court and we do not know what they think.

Interestingly, however, even Chief Justice Panganiban has some questions which should test any fair taker the hopes of those who expect a public initiative on constitutional amendment any time soon. In the concurring opinion in the June 23, 1997 case of Pimentel vs. Comelec, Panganiban prefaced his questions by saying: "My position upholding the adequacy of RA 6735 and the validity of Comelec Resolution 3300 notwithstanding, I concede the Petitia petition and automatically had to a **plebiscite to amend the Constitution.** For brevity," Panganiban next followed with the questions which I had paraphrased "must still satisfactorily resolve."

Three of the questions he raised are still relevant to the current controversy. They are:

"1. Sens. the proposed change [in 1997 it was the lifting of term limits] was a draft superficiently [sic] comprehensive to constitute a mere amendment and not a revision of the Constitution?

"2. Does the clause for the proposed change in the Constitution really emanate from the people who signed the petition for initiative? Or is it the beneficiaries of the proposed change [who are to face the electorate] who are interested in influence their own political interests?

"3. Are the six million signatures genuine and verifiable? Do they really belong to qualified voters? Unless scrupulously [the] 12% of the registered voters nationwide, of which every legislative district is represented by at least 3% of the registered voters thereof?"

Commenting on Question No. 3, Panganiban said: "The right to amend through initiative belongs to the people—not to the government and its minions."

Commenting on Question No. 4, Justice Panganiban further observed: "This is my mind is the crucible, the litmus test, of a people's petition for initiative ... As directed by [sic] Section 10 of Article [sic] opinions are fraudulent, then let them be exposed and damned for all history to a signature verification process conducted under my open system of legal advocacy."

Pfeiffer, the biggest petition post to the Supreme Court, what issues will be raised? At least four issues will have to be examined. First, should the Court reexamine the 1997 decision? Second, if it does, should it reverse the 1997 decision? Third, are the changes being proposed [shrouded] by an initiative and referendum under the present Constitution? Fourth, should the Court say something about the 12 percent and 3 percent requirement, and if so, what should it say?

On the first question, the Court will have to decide whether the law involved is already dead and beyond the reconsidering power of the Court, and has already passed on to the domain of Congress.

If the Court takes up the second question, it will have to determine the extent of the power of the Court to review a decision of Congress when Congress has acted in obedience to a constitutional provision mandating it to implement a constitutional command. The 1997 Court was very strict on Congress. The current Court has been very liberal in at least two other instances—the party list case and the right of holders of dual citizenship to run—even without the usual required residency.

On the third question, will the Court give a definitive distinction between "amendment" and "revision" and apply it to what is being proposed?

Finally, what will the Court say about the constitutional duty of Comelec that despite campaign norms to have satisfied the 12 percent and 3 percent requirement for initiative and referendum? Chief Justice Panganiban, in his dissenting opinion in the Pimentel case raised very interesting questions which also will be answered someday.

Let us listen once again to Justice Panganiban in Pimentel vs Comelec:

"Accordingly, where the single issue of sufficiency of RA 6735 was resolved, both this court three (3) months ago and Comelec only months to decide the motion for reconsideration."

As to the verification of signatures, Panganiban observed: "Comelec's herculean task alone of verifying each of the six million signatures is staggering. Considering additionally that any person may question the authenticity of each and every signature, initially before the election registrars, then before the Comelec en appeal and finally before this Court in a separate proceeding. Moreover, the petitioner must necessarily participate and be notified—may be scheduled only at the same [60] but one more than ninety [90] days from the time the Comelec and this Court, finally declares the petition to be sufficient."

Will we have a parliamentary system by June? Lea Wander Thomas dreams the time frame?

Outsourcing, anyone?

COMMENTARY

Emil B. Justimbaste

I HAVE THIS IDEA OF JOB OUTSOURCING AT SOMETHING very special, glamorous and high-paying. I thought that working on some outsourced assistant or job would mean fabulous amounts of money passing into one's bank account. I think a lot of people have the notion, too.

You could probably blame age for believing as much in government hype: it has cut up IT centers all over the major cities in the country.

Just listening that this industry is where the future lies. You no longer have to go abroad to earn big dollars, we are told.

Just step out, inside those cool cubicles, doing all those high-tech jobs, and you'll earn your keep as if you were abroad, too, in six figures, dude!

Whatever told us earning dollars through outsourcing is that easy?

I tried this. No, I did not work in call centers, answering calls from all over in my crisp English and modulated voice. My command of the language wasn't quality me for that job and my voice is only good for singing those lovely love songs when I'm about to sleep over gallons of the local red wine (read: vodka, dang).

If you're an Internet addict, you'll really find "work at home" jobs very appealing. Those are the ones you hear about saying Name any job on earth and the site probably has it. So I tried working to job advertisers for "telecommute" jobs that fit my qualifications, starting with the easiest—data entry jobs. They come in several versions—and technicians allowed, preying on the innocent.

I wrote an application letter to three of them, and two requested discovering me to a site where more is supposed to exist. Of course, there is being no technician about the basics of data entry, with a few of so called testimonials about how they made hundreds of dollars a day just filling up forms that they send you. The easier data you are able to enter, the big-get the money you make. At the end of the introductions is the registration form which tells you to pay a one-time fee of $30 for technical reasons.

The other prospective employer who also replied via e-mail visited his/her pitch a little, but in the end, one is also required to shell in $8 for the registration fee and the cost of the form. Imagine the amount of money they will be making if thousands of stupid and innocent guys like me wanted to pay the required fees for a job which is as fabulous as the diary clouds reap Mr. Amundsdung on Lyric island. So much for data entry jobs.

I also tried writing jobs. You know, English writers abound, proliferating to the Internet, so that sometimes one can really get intimidated. Just read how they write. Relevant and misleading. Many of them are also better than our columnists in the national dailies. And you're competing against hordes of them. A Filipino college graduate with newsroom background might imagine himself a winner the-ear race here. One has to write like one is born to the language, and be able to identify express what is to his gain.

Anyway, I tried that, too. There are also others that advertise writing jobs but most of them require registration fees, deadlines, of course.

But there's this one that accepts bidders without registration fees—probably one of the reasons I gave them effort to web programming as well as for writing. I could have made some $240 for a few days' work just to fix their online store's scripting program, but I laughed that one. Having no experience in online store programming, I did not want to fiddle around with the code of my prospective employer.

The second offer was for writing an online booklet about the state cup. No, I'm not an expert in that. But my employer must know that I'm a newspaper writer with my writing samples that he decided to give me a try. As a test, he asked me to rewrite a few paragraphs for the booklet's introduction. Apparently the result was OK, so he asked me how he was going to send his payment. I gave him the account of my friend in San Jose, California. Paypal is not operating in the country, see?

However, that's not the end of the story. It turned out that the draft of the booklet that I was supposed to edit had very little substance and clumsy structure, and it was supposed to have been written by an expert in Oriental rugs. Little did I suspect that I was going to do research and overhaul his draft altogether. Naturally I had to renegotiate the price but to the client since I also had lost hours. Even, I was beginning to have doubts about the job.

Exploitation of writers by the proprietors of IT start-ups is not uncommon. Because of this system of bidding, they can have the best writers for a song. Here would you like to see the a 200-word article for $2 or $10? Or finish 100 articles for $50? That's worse than writing for our local weeklies here.

Web design jobs which used to cost $40 a page are now being sold for $5-$10 by projects. Other sites are $4/hour. Is he with prices? Those with Flash animation cost a little more. The more experienced ones are back-end programming jobs and interactive sites using PHP, MySQL and such stuff. Now those are reserved for the nerds and the geeks that our computer crafty-inclined IT schools don't produce.

In sum, we have to fight with our work for outsourcing jobs that pay more than $5 an hour, and we are not even very successful. There is so much lost air in this outsourcing business, but where's the lost?

Emil B. Justimbaste works with Pantribanyan Association in Zayas, a member of the Lyric Coalition of Development NGOs (LCDC). His e-mail address is ebjustim@gmail.com

Battered but unbowed

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Dagooro T. Zarate

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S PERCEIVED lack of sincerity and the question of legitimacy continue to dog her every step. Even her supporters, the reasons why many receives with much skepticism her creation of the Mole Commission, which has been tasked to investigate the spate of extrajudicial executions (what, 2000), has left dead 740 human rights activists, journalists, environmentalists and lawyers, among other people. This the third the commission's creation with the 23rd anniversary of Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino's assassination, to many, muzzled of political gimmickry more than anything else. Commissioners—local and foreign—of these senseless killings is pressured loud-

Even journalists have many reasons to be weary; beyond the McCarthyist rhetoric of some government officials who have labeled media as members of the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army/National Democratic Front (CPP/NPA/NDF), the killings continue to "impose and crush the mind".

I was representing Sarao as abridged secretary of the Congress Secretariat of the 5th Congress of the National Union of Journalists. The document largely refers to the challenges faced by those who continue to "expose and crush the mind".

The Southern Mindanao Region Council of the Philippines (SLIP) swings up its 5th Congress, held this 27 to 28 in Tagaytay City, secure in the knowledge that the free and independent Philippine media's staunch defenses of freedom of the press and of expression [also] have been tested. Time [has] with more committed journalists rallying to the cause.

That at the same time, the Congress also reflected the sober realities journalists face as the war against evil Muslims in the country appears to be [more] difficult and resulted [sic] more victims every day. As our keynote speaker, the venerable Angel O. Santos, reminded us in the wake of Ninoy Aquino Secretary Adviser Secretary Gonzalez' imminent prosecution for about the supposed coup d'etat [allegedly] staged by the media, "We may even be in bigger trouble than we think."

"We're so aptly pointed out, the 50 or so pointed

(Dawar to before Rotary Club of Manila Bay)

IT SEEMS TO ME, MORE often than not, that when a short performer he professional guilty writings, its performance inevitably includes a swing on true from "Les Miserables."

A magical Freedom day! Are we living in 'the best of times, the worst of times,' as dangerous, ominous, yet exciting, as Charles Dickens and Victor Hugo's accounts of the French Revolution? Or is it simply the Philippines is dying, *it sure Philippines is living here.*

Which is which?

I recently had a conversation with a Filipina in his 70s, who spoke fondly of present with-Filipinos—Filipinos, that is, and Filipinos. The reference of 'the West' in our part of the world, as used, prior to World War II, a guarantee of political independence by a third date, and was the envy of our neighbors.

The Japanese occupation swept all of present nationalists, were arrogation, misery, national solidarity, even identity, certainly the economy were destroyed. Our leadership was divided; our political cohesion fractured; our youth were decimated. Even the Philippine language, the national tongue, that has characterized our political life ever since.

Still, things were slowly if not very steadily put back together in the '50s, reaching a high point during the Magsaysay administration, for that era, despite its many shortcomings, was also the last of the truly Filipino governments of the post-war period. The younger generation of patriots who accepted all this to power in a vote of protest against flash of abuses, were left politically orphaned, and sooner than they could imagine, they, who were once the rebels, were the establish. Joined themselves challenged by their own children, who no longer looked to for lessons but instead had turned to Mao.

The signs of those times were out, in my mind, the Diliman Commune—but a parallel effort were looked because it's inception. Where the Diliman Commune, the revolt of students in the University of the Philippines in 1971, took place, some residents of the area banded together and formed those the radical emotions. They were de-

being rushed by motorcycle-riding men, the dreaded common thread in the pattern of most of these killings. Has escaped the notice of both the Philippine press and legislature.

Two of last staff reporters in Tacloban, Bohol and Mindanao, have been receiving text threats regularly.

Ditto for Iloilo and Bohol and Mindanao, notwithstanding the personal worries that weighed heavy on them, showed up at the Congress and lent their time and experience to strengthening the SLIP, in a tribute to their courage and dedication and the service they do, indeed, in the name of truth.

"The unity of those who share the same dream of a free and independent Philippine press over using the people's right to know and their right to free expression, the unity of those who, together have fought and will fight to the end to stamp out the truth in pursuit of selfish interests.

"The International Federation of Journalists strongly [and] tribute to our threatened colleagues, the Philippine journalists who 'continue to serve their terrorized profession and a strong, independent and free media' and defend the public's right to know, despite regular and violent attacks from all sides.

"They are, in the [sic] justice, strongly observed, the 'Second Line of Defense' in the battle [sic] 'our evidently desperate president', a national security adviser 'out of an old dangerous mold of officials, cohorts—those proclaimed to feel more needed in dark houses feel more intimate'. Her words would be [sic] 'a government of [sic] lawlessness, an enforcement as an affirmation of efficiency—efficiency in a barbaric sense', and a government gripped by 'official cold-bloodedness and twisted notion of worthiness proportions.'

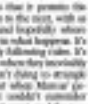
"The murdered colleagues are the voices of the of the SLIP. They are the SLIP. And they are the best proof that, at the end of this arduous path, the Philippine press and the Filipino people will arrive without [sic] scratches, triumphant."

Comments at kat_lines@yahoo.com or kat_lines_s22@hotmail.com

Old Philippines

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



leading order and their property rights. There's a lesson in that for Filipinos among the middle and upper classes today.

The virtue of democracy is that it permits the transition from one generation to the next, with as little bloodshed as possible, and hopefully always without violence. But democracy is not a guarantee, it is not a numbers game or merely following rules. It's protecting the minority so that when they inevitably become the majority, they aren't going to strangle those who had led before. But when Marcos' [generation] decided to take the law into their own power to long lasted hippies, it consigned the successor generation to limbo... and our country to an escalating cycle of violence, hate and fear.

Extremism in the periodic transfers of power between parties in turn, as we have seen, is also strangled. Anyone with an independent mind had three miserable choices: shut up, step out, or shout it out.

In an academic community told me, with material [on] the extreme left or extreme right in their [sic] [sic] an entire generation, poised. Some went to the hills. Others sold out. Still more dropped out, something only now is coming.

It's no wonder that politically most educators to be [sic] [sic] in time, somewhere in the 1960s, and those those are themselves being questioned by those who, in my generation, seem to be the hopelessly safety hippie crowd. The hippies of yesterday are perfectly content [sic] [sic] what's wrong with the seemingly hapless but still dominant generation that the hippies questioned continues to rule today.

An economist [sic] told me recently that when the economy collapsed in 1983, a significant number [sic] [sic] [sic]

Show farce in people's initiative

THE COMMELEC FOR THE DEFENSE of Liberties (Comlib) condemns the Commission en Banc that for colluding with figuring figures in railroading the approval of the people's initiative.

Comlib has been informed that the Comelec's game plan is to dismiss Sigaw's petition without allowing the opponents to question the signatures, so that Sigaw can immediately raise its petition to the Supreme Court which, in turn, is expected to abandon its Santiago ruling. The Comelec has announced that it will not entertain questions about the authenticity of the signatures which can run into millions. Thus, it will guarantee the cover-up of the fraud and deception used in the signature drive for Charter change. This will be no different from the 2004 presidential canvassing and the late impeachment proceedings where objections were merely "noted" and no evidence of fraud was allowed to be presented.

Comlib expresses its disgust over the hypocrisy of Chair Benjamin Abalos who, after the Comelec allowed the "verification" of signatures on the Sigaw petition, now claims that the Comelec cannot entertain the petition due to the Supreme Court injunction.

It must be noted that Election Commissioners Borra-Tuason Borra and Felix Bautista issued a concurring opinion ordering the verification of the signatures. This shows the duplicity of Abalos and the Comelec and makes them liable for contempt of the Supreme Court.

Comlib demands that the Comelec en banc allow objections to the signatures so that opponents may be given the opportunity to prove the latter that is the people's true, and so that those responsible may be criminally and administratively charged. Again, just like the impeachment, a cover-up of the fraud committed in the signature campaign for Charter change will only inflame the current instability as another legal arena for redress is closed.

—ABE AMEER GUIMBARDA,
spokesperson,
Committee for the Defense
of Liberties (Comlib), Central District,
Warning: no Marcelin Stream,
Diliman, Quezon City

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LETTERS

Teaching fitness boxing in schools to promote discipline, self-control

SR. PILAR VERZOSA, in her letter (PDI, 8/13/06), said that boxing as a sport should be condemned for its violence and that it violates decency and, therefore, should not be taught in schools.

I would like to point out that the Olympic Federation, no organization that promotes world unity and idealism through sport, sees boxing as a sport fit to be included in Olympic competitions. And in all the years in which we have seen our athletes compete in the Olympics, boxing is one sport in which we shine and win medals. In giving the youth the chance to learn how to box, we could be giving them the opportunity that they otherwise may not be able to have, to train in a sport that could lead them into a better and brighter future, along with the hope that they could bring home the elusive Olympic gold medal and honor to our country.

Granted, boxing is a dangerous sport, but all sports contain have some degree of danger in them. Teaching boxing in schools would not be a tool for merely boxing, but merely a fitness regimen. What will be taught is fitness-boxing, a workout that takes the best aspects of workouts used by some of the world's most finely conditioned athletes—boxers—and their main aim is to train them in a full body-intensive workout, without the contact sparring. Boys and girls can be taught the proper moves without actually hitting or harming each other. Fitness boxing has a rigorous training program, which develops the upper and lower body in one workout.

I feel that teaching boxing to our youth would be beneficial to them. They can be taught discipline, self-control, fleeting mental concentration and a cooperative nature for their pent-up energy or negative emotions. Boxing is no different from martial arts like karate or judo, in which the student is taught self-control and restraint along with sports skills.

Why should we deprive our youth of opportunities that are available to them?

—GERRY LIM,
hellol1@yahoo.com

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Is UST proud of Gonzalez?

EVERY TIME RAUL GONZALEZ OPENS HIS mouth, he sounds like a sycee to be lynched, publicity-hungry student dying to grab the headlines with his "controversial" statements. I am quite certain that UP students and alumni like myself did not find his latest remarks amusing. By calling this country's premier academic institution a "breeding ground" of destabilizers who try to overthrow the government, running around naked and acting as if "they are the only ones who know how to run the country," Gonzalez reveals more of his character and his obvious ignorance of the Oblation-me's historical significance and what it continues to symbolize.

Since he holds a key government position, his studies are alarming because they represent the voice of a government that threatens to use force to blatantly stifle academic freedom and unwisely disregard and trample on the right to freely express oneself—a democratic sovereign exercised at martial law days. History has shown us that the University of the Philippines has not been known to sit around to meek submission and turn a blind eye to injustice and misdeeds being swept under the rug so that "the economy can improve, investors can come in and we can move on."

To call UP students ungrateful to the government is unjust, flawed and misleading. Gonzalez seems to have forgotten that it is the Filipino taxpayers' money that partly pays for state university education. So why should UP students be obligated to feel grateful to the government, especially to one that is as corrupt, oppressive, ineffective and sexist as the ones in the present?

Gonzalez seems to be proud of the fact that he graduated from the country's oldest and most well-known Catholic university. It is quite ironic then that he continues to mindlessly defend a government with questionable moral credentials, which makes us seriously doubt if his alma mater is proud of him. We certainly hope that he isn't. And he's not a product of our beloved and esteemed State University.

—GIOVANNI DIC MANUEL JR., BS, BMM
pmanpilar@yahoo.com

In wake of oil spill, what gov't must do

THE SOLAR OIL SPILL OFF GUIMARAS showed us how vastly efforts to contain, manage and protect marine resources could easily be put to naught by accidents. The saddest part of this reality is that the government has proven itself nowhere near being prepared for disasters like oil spills. Worst of all, the most adversely affected by such tragedies are the poverty-stricken coastal communities that depend on already-degraded coastal resources for their every day sustenance.

In the recent oil spill, it was the coastal communities that immediately provided the waterborne for the initial cleanup efforts. Thus, it is only just that the government respond positively to all calls for assistance for the affected coastal communities. It should also provide a rescue and the owners of MT Solar 1 for the oil spill and oblige them to sufficiently and immediately compensate the communities for the damage wrought upon them by the spill.

But all this may not be enough.

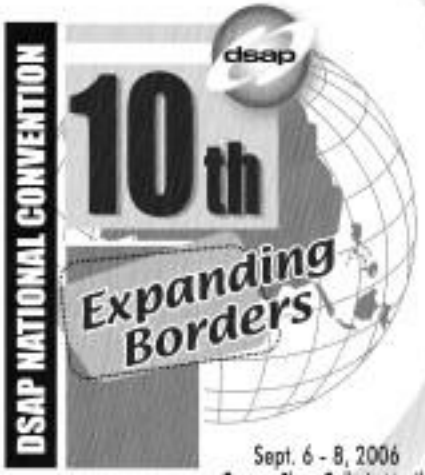
At this time, the government should already be thinking really hard of alternative livelihood for the tens of thousands of coastal families in Guimaras, Iloilo and Negros Occidental who obviously would no longer have fishing as a means of livelihood—probably in the next five to 10 years. For now, they are currently being paid to scrape off oil slick. Are the incentives truly good while the cleanup drive lasts. Hardly times are bound to come when national attention shifts to other concerns and the recovery of this tragedy are left on their own.

Also, the government should adopt measures to ensure that the likes of spill to the last to hit Philippine coasts. This also means increasing the level of preparedness of our coastal communities for such calamities. Most importantly this means helping local governments of coastal towns to become more vigilant and capable not only in monitoring activities in their municipal waters (especially the ratio ones), but also in preserving and managing their resources for optimal, sustainable use.

This can be done simply by religiously implementing our country's Fisheries Code (Republic Act 8550). The law is already sufficient to protect our coastal resources and ensure their sustainable use.

—RENE VIRAGO,
staff, Tambayong Development Center
#15 Luna Rd., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City

Drugstores Association of the Philippines



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Security officials go after terror expert

From page A1

the video which he said he took while aboard the plane and which showed him inside the airport lavatory with the bomb components he had studied in.

The **components included a** small blasting cap, an adaptor inside of which he said he had hidden some C4 plastic, and a cell phone. He had inserted the bomb materials in his jacket, computer bag, belt and shoes.

He showed the video to daypaper and two other people, including another security expert known to Inquirer and another online.

Kibitzing waiter

The **amateur expert said he** was, in fact, hoping he would get caught for it would mean that the human and technical aspects of the security procedures he was testing were working well.

A waiter at the restaurant tried to kibitz while he was showing the video.

The expert said it was the same video that he showed to airport personnel assigned in the stationing and X-ray areas of the airport, inquirer in their that he was able to get away with it.

He showed the video during an antiterrorism training exercise in Davao attended by a group of security and airport personnel.

The whole point

"I am not saying the scanning and the X-ray machines are defective," the expert said during the restaurant conversation, which took place just week before the Beslan hostage crisis explosion.

"The point I was trying to prove was the laxity and the human factor of security here. Do airport personnel know what to look for and what to look at?"

There was also another reason he showed his video during the seminar, he said.

The expert said he carried out his terror test a few days after British police foiled a plot to blow up 10 bound airliners in the air using "liquid" explosives.

The **first question that hit him when he** heard the news was: "What if that's what the terrorists want the whole world to think? That they have developed liquid bombs when, in fact, they have not yet advanced to the area of bomb-making?"

Penetration and insertion

Based on early actual terror attacks, there has been no evidence to prove that, indeed, terrorists had achieved the capability to launch a liquid bomb attack, he said.

After the London shoe or shoe, 11, interest was focused on liquid substances carried by passengers.

This was the basis for his "penetration and insertion test," the expert said during the two-hour conversation over pizza, pasta and iced tea.

"I went undetected," he said, explaining his choice of materials and why he hid them on his person, including his shoes.

He said his biggest frustration was that he was not caught.

"If you walk through and remove all the metal items from your body, nothing will trigger. Even they don't look at much of the luggage items. They saw the electrical adapter but not the C4 components which looked like gel hidden inside," he said in Filipino.

Where's the air marshal?

The aircraft he boarded was another story, the expert said.

"Where were the civilian marshal in that aircraft? It's not enough that the flight attendants are courteous and gracious to their passengers, it's more important that they give attention to the behavior of their passengers," the expert said.

He pointed to the position of his video clear showed him taking off his shoes and exposing the blasting cap attached to the sole. He said he shot that portion of the video while sitting in the mid-row section of the aircraft's.

Asked what the person next to him was doing while he was taking the video, the expert said: "Nothing!"

He also said he deliberately spent a long time inside the lavatory to see if any of the passengers or flight attendants would suspect anything.

When he finally showed the video to the unidentified 30 people who attended the seminar he noted that in Davao City, he said those persons acknowledged the lapses.

He said the seminar participants saw this as a "wake-up call" that could save their lives in the event of a real terror attack.

The expert said the "tactics" they had used in the past—and not the so-called sophisticated techniques which authorities said the terrorists were now capable of.

He said the recommendations he gave in their lecture were immediately implemented at the Davao International Airport.

But what if he got caught? Who would rescue his fans?

"No one," he said, adding that he was not even expecting that the person who asked him to carry out the exercise would vouch for him.

"It said terrorists does not coordinate and reveal his plan, not even to the one who ordered him," he said.

The expert clarified that while he was commissioned and hired to conduct the testing, he was not about to volunteer to go to jail.

"This is the truth about terrorism," he said. "You must see and just do it, aware of all the risks involved. That's why it's called a realistic mission. The only missing element here was the actual assembly of the bomb components and the explosion of the bomb."

"I know what I was doing. I only wanted to show the possibilities," he added.

The expert said he had done similar test cases in the past but on a smaller scale that did not involve such sensitive and high-profile targets.

Not in hiding

The man has been in the security business for years and has published a book on explosives, guns and ammunition. He book has been sold in gun stores nationwide since 2005.

"The ironic part of it is that airport authorities are encouraging the antiterrorism expert to come out but at the same time remark that he could be liable for his actions," another security expert said, referring to statements made by security people that the man could be held criminally liable for what he had done.

The second expert said the man who carried out the test was "not on hiding but was complaining."

"The real problem is the terror threat out there that may be carried out by acknowledged and driven suicide bombers which the expert had simulated," he said.

Smuggler . . .

From page A1

men who had carried out the operation and the men said he had been "authorized" to do it.

Gov. hesitated to confirm if it was Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte—the presidential adviser on antiterrorism—who had given the authorization. A source privy to the investigation had previously told the Inquirer that initial results showed it was Duterte who had authorized it the feat.

Garo also said the men had submitted pertinent to the test, but denied he had used active ground materials.

Dummy materials

"We told you that he brought only dummy training materials. So I told him to correct what was published, that he had a few IED [Improvised explosive device]," Garo said.

Like Garo, Duterte claimed the man also used dummy materials.

Neither Duterte nor Garo explained why dummy bomb materials would be used in an exercise if its purpose was to test whether airport security personnel were capable and alert enough to detect a bomb being carried by a passenger.

"Making realistic to (This looks like a deep operation)," said the source who is privy to the investigation of the incident that has embarrassed people involved in airport security.

The source, who asked not to be identified because the investigation was still in progress, said investigators already had an idea of what took place but declined to give more details.

Duterte had been quoted by the Senator Inquirer newspaper as saying: "We have no explanation as to what (the man) had it but to be cleared by the highest authority."

Airport chief Alfonso Cusi said aviation authorities needed to question the expert who carried out the test to obtain full and first-hand information about what he did.

Interviewed by the Inquirer in Davao City, Duterte admitted the security test was performed but denied he had ordered it.

Only clay

But the inquirer said the expert who conducted it was just trying to test aviation security at airports to see how adequate their security measures were.

"The report (on the test) is true, but inquirer became at no time at all was there an explosive," he said.

He said that what the expert carried with him was "clay."

"It was just a dummy," he said. "What he did on the plane was just a simulation."

The mayor would not give details of the personal circumstances of the expert, citing his safety and the sensitivity of his work.

"I cannot give you his name, "he said.

Duterte also said the "test" was a military and security expert and had been a "recurring process" in several instances as suggestions for the PNP-Aviation Security Command, by military personnel of Task Force Davao and by security guards.

He also said the expert conducted the test on his own and denied that "someone" (which authorities say had given the order) he (test).

"There was no instruction or mention from anybody and I cannot give an authority to do it," he said.

He, however, said the expert did nothing wrong and that the man had submitted his recommendations after pulling off his bon.

Duterte said he would look at the incident possibly on the airport authorities now can now implement improvements in their security measures.

"Because of it, they already know where to look," he said.

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Spain rips Greece, rules World Championship

Sabongan A1

Especially considering the unexpected performance by Greece (6-1) in a 101-95 semifinal win over the United States. The European champions put on an impressive offensive and defensive display in getting to the final for the first time.

Felipe Reyes started in Ginobili's place and had 11 points in the first half, one less than he had in the whole tournament—he was limited to three games because of back problems.

Ginobili's younger brother, Manu, gave Spain big minutes early in the middle. He had three rebounds in the game's first 17 minutes. He averaged 11.8 rebounding into Sunday's game.

Everything went Spain's way as it took a 10-23 halftime lead. Its others must have been playing at their normal level and the bench was playing well above its head.

Meanwhile, Greece looked nothing like the team that had received plaudits from around the world for the way it unceremoniously beat the United States.

Greece shot 40 percent in the semifinal win. In the first half against Spain, the percentage was less than half that (21 percent).

There was no big push from Greece in the third quarter. Ginobili's teammates wouldn't allow it.

The host won 84-70 with 1:19 minutes go it got only bigger, and Greece couldn't even score half as many points as it did against the United States.

The Spanish team had shirts on the bench declaring "Yes we playing too."

Good news out of the players' mouth before the game on crutches, wearing his red warmup top and hood. As he sat on the bench while the rest of the team was warming up, Greece featured Sofoklis Schortsanitis and coach Panagiotis Yannakis came over to him for visits.

He was up and hopping on one foot for each huddle. Players hugged him or slapped hands with him as each timeout. They were winning this game for him.

Gasol, who plays for the Memphis Grizzlies, averaged 21.3 points and 9.4 rebounds. He has a partial fracture in his left foot, an injury the Grizzlies said will require surgery.

Jorge Garbajosa, who signed with the Toronto Raptors this summer, and Juan Carlos Navarro each had 20 points for Spain, which sets fourth in 1982. Reyes finished with three 10+ points and Marc Gasol grabbed four more rebounds, but their play off the bench was much more than numbers.

Mihalis Kakiouzis had 17 points for Greece, which finished fourth in 1994 and 1998.

It was Europe's third straight world title—Yugoslavia won in 1990 and 2000—and it will have to be the continent's advantage in 2010 with the tournament in Turkey.

The United States won the bronze medal with a 96-81 victory over Argentina on Sunday. AP

SPAIN'S Pau Gasol (right), who missed the game due to an injury, joins teammates Felipe Reyes and Rudy Fernandez in celebrations after their victory over Greece during their final game at the World Championship in Saitama, Japan. REUTERS

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Palparan claims victory in Ecija town

By Tonyton Ocejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

LUBAO, NUEVA ECIJA—CAPPING A ONE-YEAR anticommunist drive in Central Luzon, Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, outgoing chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, on Sunday claimed victory over communist rebels in this town, which he called the "center of gravity" of the New People's Army (NPA).

Palparan said Lupao is now "out of the control and threat of the NPA."

"[The NPA] has lost its battle in Lupao. The military and the government for their nation, has taken it. Peace will soon coming to Lupao," said Palparan, who was blamed for the arrests of many judicial executions in Central Luzon.

The general, in gun metaphor, had denied any hand in the lockdown.

Lt. Col. Gregory Cayetano, commander of the 71st Infantry Battalion, said about 3,000 residents, among them rebel sympathizers, assembled at the town's gymnasium after a rally at the town plaza led by Mayor Alexander Asuncion.

The residents carried placards condemning the NPA, Communist Party of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front.

At around 4 p.m., four officials of Bayan (Nueva Ecija) Secretary General Jaime Tendero Cunanan and CPP Founder Jose Ma. Sison were swarmed behind the stage for hosting at the end of the program.

Three activities were the culmination of the three-day anticommunist seminar in the town, Cayetano said.

The military organized persons drew a large crowd even as the town was the site of a massacre blamed on the military on Feb. 16, 1987. Ten people in Barangay Intendencia were killed in Col. Gregorio Ilio-Ilio's military offensive.

Lupao, Palparan said, joined the "liberated areas" of San Ildefonso, San Miguel, Bustos and San Rafael in Bulacan; Carmen, San Jose, Gapan, Peñaranda and Cuyapo in Nueva Ecija; and San Fernando, Angeles and Mabalacat in Pampanga.

Ecologist discourages use of hair in oil slick cleanup

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A Negrense microbial ecologist warned against the use of hair and oil dirt from the modern MT Solar I.

"If you really want to help fishermen don't cut your hair. Donate biodegradable absorbents instead, like sugarcane trash, corn cobs, rice husk," Abilan Gil-son, who also received information of the MT Solar I oil spill at a forum hosted Friday by the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation Inc. and the Negros Forest and Ecological Foundation in Bacolod City.

She pointed out that when persons die and are buried, hair is usually found to be intact long after they and their bodies are exhumed.

She said it would be difficult to dispose of human hair covered hair, as it will only cause contamination.

On the other hand, biodegradable absorbents covered in oil and placed in a fixed pit could be degraded into soil-like material, which can later be used in one's garden, she said.

Gelaver also warned that the use of oil dispersants is only effective in open deep water but severely affects the coastline as it shallow waters, unlike in open deep.

"That is because if you use these dispersants in shallow areas, it will bring the oil to the bottom and endanger the marine life, like corals," she said.

The cleanup of the MT Solar I spill should be designed to deal with a continuous oil type, she said.

Basilan had to scrutinize because of its complex hydrosphere of streams that is hard to degrade and is very toxic, she said.

Maria Aileen Bonguilo Baliscatan, Greenpeace International Climate and Energy campaigner, also said her group has not called for donations of hair, which she said was just a media spin.

Bacolod mainly President Mayangel Arroyo and politicians jumped on the issue, Baliscatan said.

"So let's keep educating the crowd for more practical indigenous materials to help as absorbents," she said.

Gov. Joseph Marañon Thursday told Negros Occidental has purchased coconut coir from Oriental Negros at P7 per kilo to be used for spill booms.

Marañon said it has also been suggested that the bagasse from sugar mills can be used for spill booms. Oil removal bagasse would be most effective in the generation of electricity at sugar mills, he said.

Melvin Fernando of the Save our Seas Movement also called on advertising firms on groups that have used turquoise to donate time for the cleanup of Guimaras. There can be created as times of temporary commitment soon, she added.

Two weeks since Petron promised Governor DC Rafael Nava to provide a barge as a temporary containment area of debris gathered, Petron has not yet delivered on it, Fernando said.

The groundwater source of contamination are gravely threatened by oil leaching from piles of debris, he said.

COAST GUARD'S boat dis improvised spill boom donated by Barangay to prevent more oil spill from reaching the shoreline of Sitio Sumirik, Barangay La Paz, Municipality of Guimaras.

Roundup

6 hostages saved

MAGALANG, Pampanga—Six employees of a money transfer firm here were saved from four men who held them hostage for almost four hours on Saturday, police said. The standoff at the Wellcom Express branch here ended at 4:45 p.m., according to Pampanga police director Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina. The four suspects, whose names have yet to be released, surrendered to Espina, Mayor Marino Morales and CIDU-1 reporter Susan Enriquez during the fourth and last round of negotiations. Espina said the suspects were not clients of Morales and previously involved in a series of robbery incidents in the town and Angeles City. Police said the suspects returned to hostage taking when the police refused to bid the suspects' demands, Enriquez said.

Teresita Ocejas and Joe Mallig, Inquirer Central Luzon

4 life terms for rapist

VIRAC, Catanduanes—The regional trial court has sentenced to prison a detainee who escaped while confined at the provincial hospital 11 days ago, to four life terms for raping his own cousin in November last year. RTC Branch 42 Presiding Judge Soria G. Llopis-Agbayo found Danilo T. Villegas, 26, guilty beyond reasonable doubt for raping his 14-year-old cousin four times in San Miguel, Virac. He was also ordered to pay the victim a total of P400,000 as civil and moral damages. Both the accused and the victim were not present during the promulgation. Records say the latter having decided not to appear for the sentencing. Villegas escaped from the provincial jail on Aug. 19. Villegas is the object of a police manhunt.

Ferdie Gimpe, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Campus journalists' meet

CAGSILIHAN, Sorsogon—Around 200 campus journalists and school paper advisers from Bicol attended a three-day seminar-workshop at the Cavigaran Central School from Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, according to the Bicol Association of Secondary School Paper Advisers (Bamas). The annual activity, which serves as a regional meeting for national secondary school press conference, was organized to strengthen the skills of the campus journalists and their advisers, according to Bamas president Jean Lagata. The Center for Community Journalism and Development gave lectures on public journalism, development and ...

Bobby Lañaden, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Sorsogon cops hailed

LEGAZPI CITY—The West Regional Police and Oden Council has commended the Sorsogon provincial police office (Spo) on its arrest of more than P4 million, said to be part of the loot of the Aug. 23 East West Bank robbery in Caloocan City. Sorsogon Provincial Director Senior Supt. Joel Hagonoy and the policemen led by Supt. Romeo Fuentes, chief of the SPO's Investigation Division, recovered the loot buried beside the house of suspect Marvin Pascio Sorsogon City on Aug. 25. Police said the three security guards of the East West Bank-Market Ellis who acted as the bank's safekeepers were Rolando Cavalier, Jun Pascio brothers, Raymond, who had been under their surveillance, and then to whom they buried the money.

Bobby Lañaden, Inquirer Southern Luzon

2 soldiers hurt in clash

LUCENA CITY—Two Army soldiers were wounded in an encounter with at least 10 suspected New People's Army rebels in Barangay Bayang Aringay in Mauban, Laguna on Thursday (1 Oct. 1) morning. Lt. Col. Generoso Tolentino, commanding officer of the Army's 16th Infantry Battalion based in Famy, Laguna, identified the wounded soldiers as Pfc. Valentino Domingo and Pvt. Rodolfo Tayamen. "But they were only superficially wounded," Tolentino said in a telephone interview.

Cielito F. Bedlasco and Rene Gomez, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Gumboa in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY—The summer capital's policemen are considering their heads these days unless their firearms, but only because they are part of a campaign to recruit tourism.

Cordillera police director Chief Supt. Raul Bacalzo made this announcement to allay fears that the city's crime rate is on the rise. Bacalzo said Chief Supt. Ulo-Hud gave recent statistics. The Philippine National Police has officially implementing management because of lack of funds. He said, forty-60 percent of crime rate have been issued hand guns and over 6,000 have been issued permits to carry firearms outside their residences. Gumboa said the Department of Tourism asked the PNP to assign one head policeman to city streets.

Nestor Cabrera, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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The Big Picture

12 outstanding Caviteños feted

DASMARIÑAS CITY—A 93-YEAR-OLD musician, a Catholic priest-turned-lawyer for his leading parishioners and a conservation group known conservative others accused of using his agency as "stalking core" for the Film Ready led the 12 awardees in the 4th Gov. Emilio Aguinaldo Outstanding Achievement Awards held Thursday night at the Tagaytay International Convention Center here.

The award, named after the country's first president, is given to outstanding Caviteños who have made a mark in their respective fields of endeavor.

Leading the awardees is musician and former movie star Joselito Carulal, a native of Kawit town, who made a mark for his stunning movie "Hindi Kita Malilimot," a ballad celebrating the splendor of an undying love.

He also composed the hymn for Lyric Cultivo's Christmas carol "Ang Pasko Ay Sumapit."

"Of all the awards and citations I received, this honor is more encouraging to me because it was given close to my beloved Cavite and given by fellow Caviteños," Carulal said in his speech.

Also feted were Fr. Conie Lequigan for his healing ministry, Efraim Genuino, chair of the Philippine Gaming Corp. for government service.

Other recipients were historian and book author Dr. Emmanuel Calairo of Gumaniñas (literary and literary arts); Supreme Court Associate Justice Presbitero Velasco of Tanauan (law); UP professor Dr. Elmer Ordoñez of Imus (education and literary arts); President, Bid Management Staff deputy chief Armando de Castro of Silang (government service).

Morales president engineer Jesse Francisco of Cavite City (business management); Rear Admiral Alfredo Monig Jr. of Kawit (naval service); philanthropist engineer Lieutenant Lee of Cavite City (business and entrepreneurship); Fortune Corporation Mayor Roy Loyola (industrial development); and Dr. Augusto Balagtas of Naic (medicine and community service).

Marilou Barrios, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Gov't-MNLF peace pact should be revived–Nur

JAKARTA (27)—SIX YEARS AFTER HE signed it together with government negotiators in Manila, Nur Misuari, chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), backs Nur Misuari described the 1996 peace agreement as an ill-fated pact that must be reformed and renegotiated.

Misuari, who is under detention on rebellion charges, was granted an 11-hour furlough to attend last month's 10th commemoration of the agreement he signed with the Ramos administration.

On Saturday afternoon, the two parties again sat together at the ballroom of the Royal Mandarin Hotel, which was packed with Muslim supporters clamoring for his freedom.

In his speech, Misuari recalled the struggle of the Moro people which led to the creation of the ARMM. He last President Fidel V. Ramos, on the other hand, was focusing on he was recruited what he believed were the gains of the peace pact.

Temporary project

"Peace without development is just ceasefire. Development without peace is just a temporary project," Misuari said, he stressed that Mindanao has failed to attract peace upon the signing of the agreement.

But Misuari had a different view.

"Ah thought that the peace agreement was the way for the people of Mindanao to attain peace and development. We thought that the peace agreement will end the misery of the people. But the government decided to undo the peace agreement by unilaterally implementing it," he said.

"They implemented the peace agreement as if it was absolutely theirs. ... You can't impose on Muslims and we cannot allow you to impose peace on us. If you will, we will reject it in cold blood," Misuari lamented.

Clearing

His supporters chanted "Hidden ideas" and several yellow posters that read "Free Nur Misuari Now."

Misuari said no law could ever solve the conflict confrontation.

The peace agreement chanted to find where the government tried to change some provisions that only defended the existence of Muslim autonomy, former Sen. Ramona Santos said earlier said.

"The peace summit dragged some of the issues in the agreement to a congressional set. The revision of the Administrative Region in Muslim Mindanao- Law, for instance, was changed to put the national government control over the natural resources of the region," she said.

Misuari acknowledged that the MNLF also violated the agreement, but she stressed that the national government committed more of the grave violations.

The government still ignites anger among the majority of the Bangsamoro people with the continued detention of Misuari, she added.

"Nur Misuari is the most influential Moro leader today and he still remains influential if the government will continually detain him. The government needs to release Nur, because it is only through him that the peace agreement be fully implemented," she said.

Misuari said that despite the tangible projects and development enumerated by the government and the victory bridge those programs, the status of the agreement is in question still.

"Everyone here will not believe that the peace agreement is actually alive and kicking, so to speak. In fact, I can tell that no one here believes that the peace agreement still exists," he said.

"Let us then relinquish the point agreement from the grave and resuscitate it ... We have to start an genuine effort to resuscitate the peace agreement," he added.

As he spoke, Misuari hinted of his desire to be in the tripartite meeting between the MNLF government, and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to hold this year.

Members of the influential body have been urging the government to free Misuari for the peace agreement to be fully implemented. The OIC was instrumental in the signing of the pact when it urged Misuari to negotiate with the government.

Ambassador Misuari Yusa, then government panel chief, and Misuari signed the document in 1996. Misuari later became ARMM governor. He had problems control when his followers, allegedly on his instructions, simultaneously attacked government targets in November 2001, killing over 100 people.

Misuari fled to Malaysia, where he was arrested and deported back to the Philippines.

Jeffrey H. Tupas, Carmelita Lucero and Aurora Cay-Ambes, Inquirer Mindanao

MISUARI

Anti-Money Laundering Council

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MODUS OPERANDI

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The scammers also require their victims to send prepaid load to the scammers' prepaid mobile phone numbers.

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GMA urged: Revoke Quezon forest deal

LUCENA CITY—PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS and a multisectoral forest protection council urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to revoke a controversial government forest management contract covering 54,000 hectares of land in the Sierra Madre mountain ranges.

Board Member Cielito Panotes last week questioned Malacañang's lack of haste to terminate the license granted to Timberland Forest Products Inc. (TFPI), owned by Bulacan-based logger Wilson Ng, for its Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA).

Panotes noted that after the revocation of the IFMA by then Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun on Jan. 13, 2004 due to alleged anomaly in the approval process, nothing had substantially changed in the TFPI as shown by the company's record in the Securities and Exchange Commission.

He presented a certified copy from the SEC stating that TFPI failed to file the required company general information sheet for 2005 up to 2006.

The firm also failed to submit financial statements for 2002 up to 2005, based on the same SEC certification.

Panotes noted that TFPI had a paid-up capital of only P200,000.

Johnny Glorioso, chair of the Provincial Multisectoral Forest Protection Council's committee on information, appealed to the provincial board to ask Malacañang to reconsider its decision and revoke the contract granted to TFPI.

"Carving trees in the Sierra Madre, whether legal or illegal, is tantamount to the desecration of the memories of thousands of people who died in the last tragedy. It seems that our government never really learned (its lessons from that experience)," Glorioso said.

Logging has been identified as among the key causes of natural disasters that struck the Sierra Madre area in 2004.

In an earlier interview, Ng appealed to his critics to rise away prejudices and give his company a chance to be part of the government's reforestation program.

"We also care for the Sierra Madre. Give my company a chance to prove its sincerity. We are not loggers who irresponsible our trees, we've also tree planters," Ng said in a phone interview.

He said he was already maintaining an eight-hectare nursery with 256,000 tree seedlings of different species in the mountain village of Casiguran in General Nakar town long before the killer flash floods and landslides struck northern Quezon in late 2004.

"I have a certification from the DENR as proof. Anyone can inspect the place for his satisfaction," (Bitrserved).

He said that after the calamity the only area that had remained undisturbed by soil erosion was the perimeter of the nursery site.

According to Ng, that incident has pushed him even against his own to Malacañang.

"Our forest management contract with the government is primarily focused on planting and not merely on cutting of trees. The trees that are will be allowed to cut are only those mature, overmature and defective trees as spelled out in the document," Ng explained. *(Jeffrey T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon)*

YUMMY FOR LUNCHEON: Mayor Jerry Prieto of Candaba, Pampanga, shows a three-kilogram tilapia, which, he says, is best for fillet and sashimi.

Mayon still shows erratic behavior

LEGAZPI CITY—PHIVOLCS volcanologist Ed Laguerta said a decrease in other dioxide emissions into the air during the past 24 hours did not necessarily mean a decline in the activity of Mayon volcano as sudden changes in its behavior really happen from time to time, volcanologists said yesterday.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) recorded nine volcanic earthquakes compared to the previous day's 31, while sulfur dioxide emission rate was 2,921 tons per day compared to the previous 6,305.

Former episodes remained high and indicated the continuous flow of glowing lava and disturbing lava blocks down the main lava flow.

These were observed welling and cascading towards the southeast sector of the volcano, Phivolcs said.

Alert level 4 has remained hoisted as the probability of explosion was still high, it added. *Zigbarian Aguilon, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

DENR seeks cancellation of Davao firm's tree plantation contract

DAVAO CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources has recommended the immediate cancellation of an Industrial Tree Plantation Lease Agreement (ITPLA) claimed by Carmen Hills Corp. in a protected area in Barangay Tamayo, Davao in Baguio District here.

In a letter sent to Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, the DENR regional office said DTA No. 208, which was supposedly issued to Carmen Hills, was nonexistent.

"Query on the authenticity of the transaction, Entry thereof in the Administrative Services [of the DENR national office] disclosed that such document is not existing as per memorandum dated Oct. 7, 1998," said acting Environment Regional Director Ricardo Calderon.

Because of this, Calderon said, he was recommending the immediate cancellation of the ITPLA.

Carmen Hills claimed that it was able to obtain a permit to plant and harvest trees in the area on Feb. 10, 1986, which will expire on Dec. 31, 2010. But for the last few years, the company failed to conduct any activity in the area.

The DENR found that the company instead developed a 3.5-hectare banana plantation outside the ITPLA coverage.

A technical conference was convened to discuss and verify the validity of the ITPLA in April. Calderon said the technical committee required the company to submit original copies of the approved ITPLA, its shares of stock, and articles of incorporation and its latest amendments registration.

Calderon said the company was also given the chance to explain why the ITPLA should not be cancelled despite its failure to submit the accomplishment report and why it operated outside the coverage area without the consent of the DENR.

"To this date, Carmen Hills has not submitted the documents required by the technical committee and the legal division of this office," Calderon said.

The DENR decision came following the cluster of incidents of Davao Del Sur to stop the entry of the company, which, they said, threatened their livelihood and could lead to their dislocation and to destruction of the environment.

The ITPLA is said to cover 3,000 hectares of land now being tilled and inhabited by hundreds of families of Ismod Indigenous people in the village.

The barangay council and the tribal council have passed separate resolutions urging the DENR to cancel the ITPLA. *Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao*

Yaranon's last act is to buy land for Baguio

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—SUSPENDED MAYOR Braulio Yaranon's last action before he left office last week was to initiate the purchase of lands outside Baguio to build an extension of the residential and business communities of the city.

Yaranon earlier told city employees that buying new land or "land banking" affords the city the opportunity to offer villages better housing areas than they can no longer find within the city's territory.

By focusing its resources on the development of city-owned subdivisions outside Baguio, Yaranon said the local government could design more habitable villages.

Villages in the city are a mix of narrow roads built by the Americans and a web of disconnected sewage and drainage systems.

Yaranon said he wanted to tap locally financed reserve funds to buy these lands now that the local government is confronting problems on squatting and land titling.

But he would no longer be able to serve the rest of his term because Malacañang slapped him with two consecutive six-month suspensions that would end in January next year.

Loud applause and cheers greeted the 78-year-old Yaranon when he graced the city's 97th charter day ceremonies on Monday last week.

Baguio was officially recognized as a city in 1909 by the American colonial government but the town, designed by American architect Daniel Burnham, was meant for a population of 20,000 residents and not the 287,754 residents recorded in 2005, according to local urban planners.

YARANON

However, Baguio continues to be "an in-migration city" (a government label for the city's high migration rate) in spite the local government's inability to support the volume of people who decide to stay permanently, said Gilbert Lacambra, an urban planning expert here.

The rapid increase in migrants from Metro Manila, Mindanao and lately investors from South Korea, is mostly the contemporary phase of a 90-year-old trend, Lacambra said.

Koreans come to the summer capital to study English for six months, but many of them have started setting up businesses here to service their companions, said Ilyn Hong, owner of an English language school here.

Over 1,000 migrants from Mindanao have decimate the city theft rates.

Baguio police chief Senior Supt. Ismael Nera said the influx of migrants compelled him to develop workshops for policemen to allow them to understand new migrant cultures.

Yaranon's decision to enter into "land banking" revives a metropolitan development plan designed for the city and four Benguet towns by urban planner Joseph Alcabedas.

Alcabedas, a former Cordillera chairman of the National Economic and Development Authority, proposed a five-town metropolis in the aftermath of the July 16, 1990 earthquake.

He pursued the same concept, which he called BLIST (for Baguio and the Benguet towns of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan and Tuba), when he served as presidential adviser on urban affairs during the term of former President Fidel Ramos.

BLIST conceived Sablan and Tuba to host the city's new suburban communities, while Baguio's investments for high industries would be farmed out to Itogon, a former mining town, and La Trinidad, where Benguet's vegetable trading post is located.

Lacambra said officials and residents of the BLIST towns resisted the concept because it was implemented in them, as urban planners are now redeploying BLIST based on the twenty-year proposals.

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DEN MARIANO L. MEMIJE, (Ret.)
President and Chief Executive Officer

Proclamation 1017: Policy matrix of slaughter

Previous page A1

between 5 percent and nearly 6 percent), not respectable enough to wow about, compared to the new Asian tuna/dragon economies of China and India.

The administration is trying mightily to catch up with opportunities it lost in its first term and the first half of its second term. It has been crippled by the legitimacy crisis over alleged cheating in the 2004 presidential election, as revealed in the "Hello Garci" tapes.

It is trying to reinvent itself in the next three years with a last-week agenda and I am afraid that it has little time left to accomplish the catch programs outlined in the first paragraphs.

This agenda is crashing enough for an administration with a massive electoral mandate and that enjoys broad public confidence. For a crippled administration, a miracle is needed to accomplish these aims.

The administration's biggest enemy and obstacle is itself—and itself. It is wearing against time and it is caught in policy contradictions that create conflicts and inner enemies for itself, and that hamper all the political and economic initiatives.

Checklist of results

A checklist of results of what the administration has been good at in its deadliest shows that it has achieved sustainability in killing the second impeachment complaint with unerring swiftness. Bravo for that.

On the counter-insurgency front, the efficiency for seeing the slaughter of the insurgent-suspect-cheerleader shows. The objective of ending the communist insurgency in two years is tied to the killings of the leftists and journalists. They are the two sides of the same coin.

The campaign on this score has stumbled because of wrong policy assumptions. The military, police and justice department are admonished from bringing the fine case against the terrible clutch squads by the fact that they are looking for suspects in the wrong direction.

They had, even before they could start their jobs, already concluded they had to hunt for the killers in the ranks of the leftists.

They have put blinders on their eyes, shutting them from acquiring their own minds, which are the main suspects of human rights organizations, such as Amnesty International.

PNP Director General Oscar Calderon has already damned that Task Force Usig "has been doing its job well," even though it has only begun to hand over to the Melo Commission documents that might help it in its inquiry into the killings. And yet the record shows Usig has only produced one case out of the killing of 207 leftists and 17 journalists since 2001.

1017 set policy direction

The direction into which the military, police and the justice department is looking is driven by the policy matrix defined by Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 declaring a state of national emergency in February.

The proclamation was justified by the presidential national security adviser that the exercise of emergency powers was required to crush a conspiracy of military rightists and leftists, abetted by an "irresponsible" sector of the press.

This matrix defined the military and police action in ending the insurgency within the next three years and the killings. It set the tone and direction of their actions.

It was echoed by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez who said the killings were a consequence of "collateral damage" for casualties in the course of the "all-out war" on the communist insurgency.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales nudged in the media in this conspiracy theory by saying that they were something like accessories to the plot. Justice Gonzalez being influenced by the leftist-led giving publicity to their point of view, although this is a mystery, because the real reason is that the administration cannot tolerate a critical press.

Hearing out the inquest of the counter-insurgency campaign, the conspiracy matrix became the state's security ideology which was dutifully implemented by Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan (with gusto) in his communist front in Central Luzon, Mindoro and Samar and echoed by Gonzalez and Gonzales (in his scenario which bore to the media).

Rebel-free super regions

The President has given the military a deadline to close the super regions of insurgency to set the stage for a fast-tracked economic transformation.

The super regions scheme, the sooling of the killings, and the crushing of the communist insurgency are closely linked.

They stand on a fragile national security strategy and policy matrix spelled out by PP 1017.

The matrix singles out the Left as the main enemy of the state, with the military rightists taking second place, although they are more of a threat and more dangerous because they are armed.

How can you set the military against its own men without causing civil war?

The conspiracy thesis of PP 1017 is wrong. Identification of the regime's enemies. The matrix triggers a witch-hunt that looks for scapegoats, instead of solutions, to already designated outlaws. It deflects the search from other possible sources of the wave of death squad killings.

This matrix is overbalanced and firmly attached out. It bears the superstructure of the three prongs of crushing the insurgency, ending the killings and recovering transformation.

Since the assumptions of this policy matrix are wrong, these projects are bound to crash in a big bang.

By 2006, we'll end up with more corpses of collateral victims.

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Suspended Pasay officials hang tough

Trinidad vows to lead today's flag-raising ceremony at City Hall

WHAT BIG FEET YOU HAVE
A girl plays hide-and-seek beside a gigantic pair of shoes in Barangay Barangka, Marikina City. JOAN BONDOC

By Tarra V. Quismundo

EMBOLDENED BY THE SUPPORT coming from his constituents, Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad yesterday said he would begin the workweek the same way he last been doing it since he assumed his post: By leading today's flag-raising ceremony at City Hall.

"It should be business as usual because we haven't received a copy of the suspension order. So we can't afford to abandon our posts or else, our political opponents will accuse us of being remiss in our duties," he added.

Trinidad, Vice Mayor Antonio Calixto and 10 city councilors were suspended for 60 days by the Ombudsman last Friday for illegally entering into questionable contracts for garbage collection and disposal in 2004 and 2005.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said the other day that he was still waiting for a copy of the Ombudsman's order.

"Any order will be countered by our legal department which will counsel the implementing department to... I am obligated to comply with and implement all legal directives," Puno added.

Since the order was handed down Friday, Trinidad and the 11 other officials have been holed up at City Hall, with their supporters holding nightly vigils.

According to the mayor, around 1,500 of their followers were gathered at City Hall yesterday. The police, however, estimated the crowd at 700.

Trinidad the other day claimed that Pasay Rep. Consin Cu who was reportedly planning to run for mayor next year was behind the whole thing. "This is a desperate move in view of the upcoming elections," the mayor, who is up for reelection, said.

When asked what he intended to do, the mayor said, "When I see the order from the Ombudsman, I will look at it and then consult my lawyer."

He added, "We will not cause trouble here, unless they (trouble) cause us trouble. Everything is peaceful here. I find it comfortable here among friends. I cannot go home because the people are here ... I will wait for them to go home before I do."

READY Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad (in orange shirt) moves to his supporters from a hideout at City Hall. He and the other suspended officials have not left the building since Friday night. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

Over 12,000 lights to brighten up Quezon City

By DJ Yap

OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, more than 12,000 streetlights will be installed on major roads and thoroughfares in Quezon City in a bid to keep the city's streets safe from crime.

Of the total, 4,495 streetlights shall be put up this year, comprising of 3,935 pole-mounted streetlights and 2,560 ornamental ones, according to city officials.

A study has revealed that Quezon City's road networks, measured at 35-meter intervals, need at least 80,149 streetlights for maximum coverage. To date, the city only has 39,570 streetlights.

The road network of Districts 1, 2, the most densely populated area, measures 1,879.49 km, meaning it requires 43,000 streetlights, the biggest requirement among the four districts.

The project is expected to increase Quezon City's "illumination coverage" from 49.63 percent to 68 percent.

Aside from the installation of the new streetlights, the city is undertaking the repair and maintenance of existing streetlights for the next three years, said city administrator Pequito Dakoa.

Some 11,594 streetlights are scheduled for repair during that period, he added, saying that the repair work alone would cost P20.4 million.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said the streetlighting project would be "a very important deterrent" against criminality.

Golden girls club pushes for gray power

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SGV & Co

The BIR's targets have been set. For the rest of the year, it will intensify its tax audit and enforcement activities – prioritizing for audit the top 10 industries per region and top 2,000 corporate and individual taxpayers per district. The BIR will continue its focus on the investigation and prosecution of tax evasion cases. In all of these efforts, the BIR will increasingly use state of the art technology and better auditing techniques. Are you prepared for these?

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Senior moments need not be lonely exercises in nostalgia

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TAKE A SAFE EVERYDAY and CHECKUPS OF medications on your arms and legs. Comb your hair nicely into place. Don't forget to apply powder on your face.

Remember, being old should never be an excuse to stop looking good.

Take it from Dr. Edisela Garcia who never tires of giving these reminders to members of the Philippine Women's Centennial Association (Pwca), which she now heads.

"We should erase the stereotype that old people are crazy boys (smells)," she would tell her members at the start of their weekly meetings in Quezon City.

During one of their meetings, she had good news for members of the club: They can now avail of haircuts or facial treatments at a discount in any branch of hair stylist Ricky Reyes' chain of beauty salons.

Pwca and several organizations of senior citizens in Metro Manila recently merged under an informal umbrella group headed by Garcia.

Called "Golden Girls," Reyes formed the group late last year but relaunched it last month to help the elderly, many of whom he said wallow in self-pity after realizing that they no longer have the final say on household matters.

"Senior citizens get retired really. They always had lonely because they are not the queen (and king) of their own domain," Reyes explained.

To help them feel better, Reyes distributed yellow cards to Golden Club members which would entitle them to a discount whenever they visit his salon.

"To feel good, they also have to look good," said the hair stylist who is very close to his mother, Imelda, now 87 years old.

Garcia has also been devoting her time to taking care of older people, being a volunteer for Pwca, which she's leader Lia Gonzales founded in 1994.

Though she does not hold a senior citizen card yet at age 58, Garcia knows what older people go through. "They begin to lose their self-esteem and feel useless," she said.

But in little but nice ways, her organization and the new umbrella club to which it belongs are trying to change this feeling of worthlessness.

For one, Pwca has been organizing livelihood seminars for its members.

The Mandaluyong Federation of Senior Citizens Associations Inc. also been holding beauty pageants and ballroom dancing seminars for older people, according to Elvira Hernando, who heads the group. And under the law, senior citizens get a 20-percent discount on products and services.

But Garcia does not see the only reasons why more and more elderly people are joining their groups. Hernando is quick to say. "They join our group to be happy," she adds.

From offering classes in building fashion shows, from teaching members new skills to just offering them company, these organizations are making the lives of those who may otherwise feel already too tired to live.

Garcia puts their groups' mission that way: "We just want to make the remaining years of our lives happy."

KMP's guru Ricky Reyes (left) during a meeting with members of the Golden Club. PHOTO BY EDSON C. TANDOC JR.

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Makati police chief cleared of dishonesty raps

By Tarra V. Quismundo

INTERIOR SECRETARY RONALDO PUNO HAS overturned a National Police Commission (Napolcom) decision convicting the officer in charge of the Makati Police Station (MPS) for dishonesty due to lack of evidence.

"The appeal is hereby granted and the assailed decision of the Napolcom National Appellate Board (NAB) and Chief, PNP (Philippine National Police), are hereby set aside. Director Leonardo Supnet Supangan is hereby reinstated to his former rank," said the decision issued Friday and signed by Puno who also chairs the Napolcom.

The NAB had ordered Supnet' dismissal as chief inspector last July, based on the recommendation of the PNP which found him guilty of possessing and using a stolen car in 1998.

Puno, however, said that possession of a recovered stolen vehicle does not constitute dishonesty but "perhaps may fall under another administrative infraction ..."

"If the heart and soul of the administrative charge is the dark possession of a stolen vehicle, the charge of dishonesty cannot be made to prosper in the absence of any evidence corroborating that his acquisition and possession of the vehicle was obtained through acts of dishonesty," he added.

Napolcom said Puno's decision could pave the way for his appointment as acting Makati police chief.

"I have been totally exonerated of the charges ... I have been hearing from the highers-up that I am going to be appointed as acting police chief and my rank should be commensurate to the position," he told the Inquirer yesterday.

A demotion would have disqualified Supnet from being appointed acting or permanent police chief as the position can only be assigned to police officers with the rank of superintendent or higher.

An acting police chief, compared to an officer in charge (OIC), has more functions and wider administrative powers, he added.

Supnet has been the OIC of the Makati police station since July, after Senior Supt. Marcos Vicente suddenly went on emergency leave. Vicente has since been assigned as OIC of the Pasay Police Station.

MetroBriefs

Sim's birthday celebrated

PRESIDENT of Pasay, Sha. Ana Martin, particularly those living in Cardinal Sin Village, celebrated the other day the birth anniversary of one of the major players in the country's two people power revolts by having their pets blessed. "This activity was our device to fun-draising, not only for parishioners but for the community," said Father Mark Morales, who led the blessing of the animals. He added that the event was part of the three-day celebration of Jaime Cardinal Sin's 76th birthday on July 31. Before his death, Sin made the two-day Cardinal Sin Memorial Center Publishing, the full title of which is Cardinal Sin Center Publishing, the center will be held in Rochester Hotel at 180 Edsa, Mandaluyong City, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For inquiries, call 7822 at 8330864, 8913-2290777, 8913-2290, 8924-8914, 8924-8478 or e-mail to [illegible]

Proposal writing seminar

DISCOVER if that most grant or donor support, join the winning grant proposal writing seminar on Sept. 14. Learn from the experts how winning grant proposals are crafted. Best practices, tips, trends, techniques and samples of approved proposals will be discussed during this seminar. Speakers include Dr. Florita Bautista, resident representative, Friedrich Naumann Foundation Philippines; Ma. Elvira de Leon, social development manager, Philippine Red Foundation Inc.; and Jose Ma. Kwong, Kwong Center Publishing. The seminar will be held at Rochester Hotel at 180 Edsa, Mandaluyong City, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For inquiries, call 7822 at 8330864, 8913-2290777, 8913-2290, 8924-8914, 8924-8478 or e-mail to [illegible]

Did you know

THE FIRST reunion of Bataan Death was held on June 23, 1946, with 178 persons offering prayers in the Shrine of Perpetual Help. Six more and more people started attending services, the Redemptorist congregation had to build a more spacious church. It took more six years, however, to build the church because most of the funding came from donations from ordinary people.

In 1948, Business Church was declared the National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. In December of that year, the new church – which can seat only 3,000 but can accommodate 5,000 – was consecrated by Manila Archbishop Rufino Cardinal Santos.

The church is always open to the public. Every weekend, about 150,000 devotees go to Baclaran, starting at 4 a.m. until past midnight.

Cyril C. Arcadencio, Inquirer Research

Obesity a deadly global epidemic, experts say

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—THE world is in the grip of a fat pandemic that threatens to overwhelm every country's health system with diseases such as diabetes and breast illnesses and shorten the life span of future generations, experts at an international conference warned on Sunday.

"Obesity is an international scourge," Prof. Paul Zimmet, the chair of the meeting of more than 2,500 experts and health officials, told delegates in a speech opening the International Congress on Obesity. "The insidious, sweeping pandemic of obesity is now engulfing the entire world."

"It's as big a threat as global warming and bird flu," said Zimmet, an Australian expert on diabetes.

Other experts at the conference said the cost of treating health problems related to being overweight was increasing while on a global scale, 300 was underscored as billions of dollars a year in countries such as Australia, Britain and the United States.

"We are now dealing with a catastrophe or medical problem, we're dealing with an enormous economic problem that, it is already unsupportable, is going to overwhelm every medical system in the world," said Prof. Philip James, the chair of a global task force set up by medical organizations that deal with weight-related problems.

He said governments had been forced to confront rising obesity rates because of the expense of treating related health issues.

Among the most worrying problems is skyrocketing rates of obesity among children, which made them much more prone to chronic diseases as they grow older and could shave years of their lives, experts said.

The children in this generation may be the first in history to die before their parents because of health problems related to weight, Prof. Kim Steinbeck, an expert in childhood health at Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, said in a statement.

The World Health Organization says more than one billion adults around the world are overweight and 300 million of them are obese, putting them at much higher risk of diseases such as diabetes, heart problems, high blood pressure, strokes and some forms of cancer.

There are now more overweight people in the world than people who are underweight, who currently affect 800 million, Zimmet said.

People in wealthy countries were leading the world in overeating and not doing enough physical activity, but those in developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America were fast learning the bad habits, delegates said.

But the traditional way of dealing with the issue—focusing on getting individuals to adjust their diet and exercise—had failed, said a more multifaceted response involving governments, business and community groups is needed, they said.

Experts also said governments should impose bans on junk food advertising aimed directly at children, although they acknowledged such restrictions were unlikely to come about soon because the food industry would lobby hard against them.

One in four children in Australia is overweight or obese, and forty-three. Half of Australia's adult women are overweight, and two thirds of men, she said. The rates were among the highest in the world, with the United States worse, she said.

Modern life has created an environment that is counterproductive to staying a healthy weight, experts said, including neighborhoods that were increasingly being built with not enough public space for children to exercise, said Prof. Louise Baur, a child health expert at the University of Sydney. AP

TWENTY-SEE-year-old Liang Yang, who weighed 220 kg at his heaviest, carries his child in a basket in China's Chongqing municipality, in this April 17 photo. —

RP Flag unfolding... as the biggest flag in the world

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Speakers: Bishop Dominique Herman, Jerusalem, Israel; **Rabbi Baruch Herman**, Jerusalem, Israel; **Rev. Richard Mabry**, Missions Pastor, Moose Jerusalem, Naples Florida USA; **Rev. Alfred Bonzilla**, Prayer Asia, 99.9 - 30 CAM, Pit. Bonifacio "Gil" Farrera, Living Lutheran Group Laguna, PG Dover Mansion, Philippines; **Rev. Jerome Mendoza**, Jesus Revolution. The conference is open to everyone, free event. First served basis. No registration.

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, pray, seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sins and heal their land." II Chr 7:14

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The WORLD

Editor: Lawrence B. Quesada

14 British troops killed in Afghan crash

LONDON—THE BRITISH MILITARY WAS ON SUNday investigating its bloodiest day in the war on terror after 14 troops died in a plane crash in Afghanistan, prompting renewed questions about the mission there.

The Royal Air Force Hercules MK3 reconnaissance plane on a NATO mission, came down in Bandahar province in southern Afghanistan on Saturday due to a technical problem. A NATO spokesperson said in Kabul, reporting that it was not shot down.

The crash caused the biggest single loss of British troops in Afghanistan or Iraq since the US-led war on terror was launched in November 2001. Twelve RAF personnel, a Royal Marine and a British Army soldier were killed.

The incident brings the number of British armed forces personnel deaths in Afghanistan since the start of operations against the hardline Taliban regime in 2001 to 36, including 15 in combat.

Six soldiers were killed last month alone and the monthly rising death toll has left major lawmakers, how much longer British can tolerate such losses.

Rejecting suggestions that it was "mission impossible," Defense Secretary Des Browne said in a television interview that people needed to understand why British troops were in the country at all.

"We're there in support of United Nations resolutions," he said.

"I know that the south (of Afghanistan) is a very difficult and dangerous place and our two-year mission there has suggested that." However, "the developed world cannot allow (the Afghanistan to become a training ground for terrorists again," he said.

Browne added: "We have secured the ruin and the investigation has begun.

"The indications, both before the crash and since, suggest that this has been a dreadful, tragic accident," Prime Minister Tony Blair said the crash was a "tragedy" which would "distress the whole country." British forces are engaged in a vital mission in Afghanistan and this terrible event clearly reminds us of the risk that they face daily," he said.

Britain has nearly 4,000 troops in Helmand as part of a NATO led force working to bring security to the entire southern province in order to allow reconstruction.

But newspapers revealed that earlier chaos firings on power, keeping and security duties, Britain was officially at war in Afghanistan.

The Sunday Telegraph and the Sunday Mirror said that under new rules of engagement, commanders now have "non fighting" roles, giving them the legal authority to launch an air-to-ground support Taliban strongholds, conduct searches and order pre-emptive attacks against insurgents' camps.

With 7,200 British troops also in Iraq, accusations—denied by the government and military top brass—have mounted in recent months that troops are overstretched and ill-equipped. AFP

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WORLDBRIEFS

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US bronze medal has little shine /A30 WHAT'S INSIDE

SPORTS
Editor Tobbyric S. Melendres

Hair Loss Stops at Svenson
892-HAIR

Tigers carve out drama-filled win

By Jaymico W. Payo

THE UNIVERSITY OF Santo Tomas honored a late teammate, forged a tie for a Final Four slot and gift-wrapped a twice-to-beat edge for another school, all in a 77-74 victory over Adamson yesterday in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the PhilSports Arena.

The Tigers sealed a collar-season elimination round with a 6-5-1 card, making at least a playoff for a semifinal ticket and knocking the Falcons out of the race for a twice-to-beat advantage.

That edge went to the University of the East, which lost for provisionally ending in a 9-9-0 debut to Team U in the second game.

Adamson dropped into a tie, at 5-6, with the Tamaraws and both outforge a three-way tie for the last two semifinal spots if they win their final assignments. Either case, the team with the better quotient, for example, outlasting the last two battling to a knotted mark.

"We still don't know [what will happen], we have to wait for the outcome [of the remaining games]," said UST coach Pido Jarencio, who dedicated the victory to late Santo Tomas cager John Lee dyll, who would have celebrated his 23rd birthday yesterday.

NESTOR (back) of UP thwarts UE's Ronie Gregorio during their game yesterday. ALEXANDER ARGUELLES

April, who was to be part of this year's team, died of electrocution after setting two kids to a swimming pool accident in Tayabas, Quezon, last April.

The Maroons gained nothing more from the win than a grand farewell, ending their season-ender with a 4-10 slate.

The Warriors settled for a 7-4 record and still finish the eliminations in second place by no matter what happens in the remaining playdates.

Rookie Jerry Cruz shone with 23 points, 20 rebounds for the Tigers.

The scores

First Game (Box)
UST (74)—Cruz 23, Evangelista 14, Daroy 9, Tyler 8, Siao 7, Cortez 7, Nolasco 4, Arao 0, Gile 0, Cuevas 0.
ADAMSON (74)—Rivera 20, Gonzaga 14, Fajardo 11, Yongco 7, Pamparo 7, Gotladera 4, Pacheco 2, Badlis 0, Aguilar 0.

Quarters: 20-19, 40-41, 60-58, 77-74

Second Game (Box)
UP (84)—Cruz 19, Santos 18, Abanes 9, Daroy 8, Cabahug 8, Sison 5, De Jesus 5, Flores 3, Ramos 3, Salvador 2, Castro 2, Bugarin 1, Concepcion 0, Mariano 0.
UE (81)—Bonifacio 20, Andaya 18, Gregorio 13, Mendoza 6, Tiwa 6, Montero 6, Quirito 4, Cardenas 4, Flores 2, Galindez 2, Lagunzad 1.

Quarters: 20-19, 44-36, 61-60, 84-81

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Reyes expects big role for Tenorio

By Jane Plasencia

FOR ALMOST A DECADE, OLSEN RACELA has been Ateneo Blue Eagle Hero's own reliable court general.

But since the arrival of rookie Lewis Alford Tenorio, San Miguel Beer coach Chot Reyes has been contemplating on relegating Racela from his usual starting point guard slot.

"It depends," said Reyes after the Beermen signed up Tenorio, fourth pick overall, to a three-year deal on Friday. "The way we figure it, [A Tenorio] was years more further he can take over Racela's duties.

"But it could be sooner than expected. That kid [LEWIS] has heart."

If Tenorio proves to be more efficient, the former Ateneo Blue Eagle will become the first-ever rookie playmaker under Reyes' coaching guidance and "can learn and speed."

"I want a more than one or two coach pace with the other quicker teams and [A can set that kind of tempo for us," said Reyes.

Racela, who will be 36 a month after the PBA's formal opening on Oct. 1, hardly started for the San Miguel SF Team of coach Reyes during his successful stints at the Rizal Cup a month ago.

Team source said Racela, himself himself's chief pointer in the early 1990s, has been offered a job as playing assistant for the [illegible], insisting he still has a couple of playing years left.

The 5-foot-7 Tenorio, who starts to match Racela's fine outside shooting touch to become more effective, was the PBP team's top playmaker in the Jones Cup last July 16 helped Ateneo win the 2002 UAAP title and led Fatburn Center to the last PBL crown by winning Finals MVP honors.

TENORIO

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APPEAL TO PRESIDENT GMA
PHILRACOM CONTROVERSY
With the Philippine Racing Commission – which is under the Office of the President – now a new chairman, it continues to struggle with the same set of disoriented commissioners, whose terms of office expired last August 15, 2006. Thus, it's unfair for the new chairman to be forced to play the time-delay with the same cutter. After the dismissal of the former chairman, the Philracom has yet to correct its abuse of authority, foremost of which is the EIA issue. All the 17 signed by former Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, had clearly outlived EIA as a mere element of component animals like cats and dogs under Category E – the lowest or animal classification. There is no loophole in the law, which clearly states the construction program on animal diseases falls under Category A. This is an opposition to the re-appointment of these same officials, who had proven ineffective in resolving the sacked former chairman. These same commissioners have a pending criminal and administrative case at the Office of the Ombudsman. The racing public and Philracom deserve an officials with unquestioned reputations. Because public service is a public trust. No more, no less.

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Rosal cops Active Mid-Am golf title pulling away

LIPA CITY—ARIEL ROSAL WON HIS FINAL tournament as an amateur to wire wide recently shooting a four-over par 76 to cop the Nila Active Group Mid-Am crown by three shots at Mount Malarayat's composite layout here.

Combing for opening 70, the 44-year old banker totalled 146 for 36 holes to turn back Jose Mari Bacharach (76-146) and provide a glittering end to what had been a fine amateur career.

Rosal, who recorded a one-month assistant on resulting in the United States, turned pro at the start of the month to concentrate on teaching young golfers the fundamentals of the game.

Baptista Chengli (75-151) won in a comeback over Dave Hernandez (75) for third spot in the tournament presented by the Active Group and Skechers.

Defending champion Jingy Ysasaw stumbled via final-day 81 for fifth with a 152.

Junior Pantaleon also an 80 but still went on to take the Open B class by five shots over Jamel Agustin (87), while Phong Quiocho fired an 89 (156) to earn back Alfredo de Guzman (81-161) for the Master's title.

Mon Magat came back from three shots down to nab Masters B play over Jun Zagata (91) after an 81 for 166, while Ken Kimpkok totalled 155 after a 79 for a three-shot win over Antonio Hernandez (80) in Seniors' action.

Jong Rak nipped Alfredo Cabrera by two shots for the Seniors B crown after an 88 for 176. Cabrera fired an 86, even as Japanese Yoshiharu Akisoka fired an 82 for a 20-stroke win in the Legends 1 division.

Ben Hur Alvarez held off Mike Santiago by two shots with a 162 tally for the Legends B title. Rosh shot final-day 80s.

ROSAL shows his trophy flanked by Active Group president Antonio Yuvalta (left) and Peter Turnbull, Nila Southeast Asia manager.

SPORTSWATCH

Asuela, Balbora set pace in Iloilo Shell Active chess

VETERAN CHAMPIONS ELLEN ASUELA AND TOPseed Jerico Balbora bundled their first three matches to lead the city field in the juniors and ladies divisions of the Western Visayas regional the 2005 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships at SM Iloilo in Iloilo City, won the weekend. Asuela defeated Stephanie Pitallo, Audrey Ubi and Douglas Perez in the 20-seed ladies class while the same round Balbora system tourney among on the sixth round the eight-stage circuit sponsored by Filipinas Shell, Solaire Resort round their first three games to join Asuela in the juniors' lead, including Ebenezer Torres, Rizzel Rivera, Michael Cahilipan, Antonio Chavez, Rose Delgado, Noreen Sadie and Virgil Arellano.

Lina, Atienza in PSA Forum

TWO MEMBERS OF THE THREE-MAN PANEL [illegible] from a unified basketball federation in the country will be appearing in tomorrow's session of the PSA Forum as the main headline issues of the Philippine Postcourt in Manila. Philippine Basketball Association commissioner Leo Prieto and Basketball Association of the Philippines counterpart Jose Lina will update sportswriters on the football basis on Philippine sports today, [illegible] from the public sports program aired over Stereo Radio FM and sponsored by Pagcor. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza is Richard Alvarez, project manager of Visual Interests Incorporated 2006.

San Juan stagfest gets going

THE BORUS FISHERIES OF THE SAN JUAN CITIZEN'S [illegible] "Rambolan Stag Derby" gets under way at 5 p.m. today with assistant breeders from the provinces taking part and Dagupan Governor 2002 as sponsor. Provincial Board chairman said this event is exclusive only to "Rambolan" participants who scored 2.5 and 1 point in the elimination rounds. The 2007 management has put up an additional prize pool of P250,000 for today's elimination. For inquiries, call the SJC office at 726-5284 or 724-5682.

3 cockers share LGBA title

[illegible] OF THE LAGUNA COCKERS ASSOCIATION, Inc. [illegible] of Rizal, Silverio Palangan of Bulacan and Rolly Campos of Batangas shared the championship of the Lucena Sanwood Breeders Association [illegible] derby last week at the Granada Coliseum. The LGBA's stag derby series, sponsored by Laguna Frag Inc., Asiwel Pharmaceutical Farms, Star Milkstar and G. Mag Bottle Ice, resumes its twelve of the Bataan Sports Complex in Balanga, Batangas, with more than 100 fights on tap. Participants must submit entries today at the LGBA office. For inquiries, call 925-7308 or 924-5091 loc. 125.

Makati 1-stag derby today

[illegible] IN THE PHILIPPINES (PCCP) 1-stag derby series kicks off at Makati Coliseum today with 65 stag Derby Aces as sponsor. Highlight of this eight-leg series is the search for 2006 PCCP Kingfighter of the Year, last year's title [illegible] Rudy Dalisdis and Wilfredo Uy of WILJ Sports and Gaming Corp. PCCP staged the 2006 Cocker of the Year race recently with Richard Sytoc, boxing champ Manny Pacquiao and Jake Macapagal emerging as the top three winners. For inquiries, call 896-3540 or 895-6972.

US bronze medal has a little shine

Carmelo Anthony (left), Dwyane Wade, and LeBron James (right) now have the Beijing Olympics in their forearms.

[illegible] was not the disaster so many of the [illegible] had predicted it was.

"We know where we started this year going to be a journey, not a short trip," [illegible] Mike Krzyzewski. "We have to learn the international game better."

How much more evidence could the American basketball public possibly need to be convinced that attaining gold medals at the highest level of international competition is no longer easy? Forget about the '80s, '60s, '50s, '70s, '90s and, most of all, forget about the one-and-only 1992 Dream Team, which obliterated 14 foes by an average of 40 points a game and whose smallest margin of victory was 32.

"All those kids around the world who watched the Dream Team are all grown up now," points out America's Shane Battier. "And guess what? They're fast, strong, athletic and they can shoot."

The idea that the United States is struggling to keep up is no longer preposterous. Rather, it's a given. That leads you to the entire business side of professional basketball. How valuable and how stable is the NBA brand now that the US is no [illegible] in international championships?

The NBA is the most prestigious basketball league in the world, but its players are the champions of nothing outside its own borders.

[illegible] Hour, there's the Beijing Olympics to look forward to. But Beijing is far in the future, before the US can start worrying about Beijing, the team has to get there first. Check [illegible] 1992 Dream Team results, never had those problems.

[illegible] I'll never even called a timeout. Has one. — New York Times News Service

HUMORED by his dating, Russian pastor girl Maria Sharapova reacts during a rule-formal break at the US Open.

Government Warnin
is dangerous

Rain halts US Open

NEW YORK—ANDRE AGASSI RETIRED another anticlimactic injection on Saturday and received an extra day to rest before playing in the third round of the US Open, his match postponed because of intermittent rain.

Rain that was barely there in the morning has gone hand in hand with the evening washout on Saturday's entire schedule at Flushing Meadows. Agassi's match against German qualifier Benjamin Becker was rescheduled for Sunday.

"Ill be all right. I don't need tapes, try I'll be OK," Agassi said with a smile as he prepared to leave for the day.

Matches involving Andy Roddick and Maria Sharapova also were pushed back to Monday when tournament organizers will add a night session to Louis Armstrong Stadium for the first time in a bid to erase the backlog. Five of the tournament's 32 matches have been cancelled so far, including two entire days—Tuesday and Saturday—without any matches completed; there hadn't been a single such 24-hour period in the US Open since Day 1 in 1987.

"It's been a tough day, but we are one day behind," US Tennis Association executive Arlen Kantarian said. "We expect to be fully caught up by the end of the day tomorrow."

The 36-year-old Agassi, playing in the final tournament of his career and fighting a bad back, lost both sets over the more than seven hours already included his five-set thriller against eighth-seeded Marcos Baghdatis that began on Thursday night and finished in the wee hours of Friday.

"I prefer not to have a drama-filled one somewhere," said Agassi, whose eight Grand Slam titles include runs at the US Open.

The benefit of having time to rest his bothersome back would also result in having to play on consecutive days down the line if Agassi loses before extending he wouldn't be scheduled to play in the fourth round on Monday, possibly against 2003 US Open champion Roddick.

The delay also gave Becker more time to consider when it might be like to face Agassi, a player he grew up admiring and emulating.

"The most difficult (part) is he's going to have to be able to relax in his mind that he's playing tender," said Becker's coach, Tarik Benhabiles, who spoke to reporters through Becker.

Agassi went to a hospital to have a cortisone shot Tuesday after his victory over Romanian Andrei Pavel. Then, his back ran painful for a six hole after the Baghdatis match. Agassi had a chance to go to his hotel on Friday to get him an inflammatory medicine. AP

...ova and Sharapova star; Andy Roddick shuts up earlier

The glory that was Greece

BARE EYE

Ricardo Fernández

THE GREEKS DID more than just steal the MMDOF from the gods.

The colossal feat, which saw the Antikythera-defined Achaeans stem from the land where the Iliad was born, was straight out of the pages of Greek mythology.

The athletic way to help it was: lift all the way to the rule of Olympus and Downs.

"This is a milestone in," admitted the host, Said Lennon-stuttering lead US scorer.

Yes, the sport should also rear as the year's top honor away our closer rocker Lisa of Sonia.

So what lead caused the great upheaval?

Simple. The intentions were had the mighty, more popular individual team, to an remarkable mentorship projected the Greeks as a race with solid bonding and master humanity.

* * *

There was a divine feeling, and this indeed's explained later a restored relationship where cops were natural and fireworks lighted to tokyos, seas of civilization, and on all the Greek islands, from Crete to Thasos, where once the Hermit Diogin Kiney lived.

Well, its rumors, the US team came up with a well thought-of combine of NBA standouts and collegiate stars. It was also handled by a college coach armed with deeper reserves of international play.

The idea was to field a team that could really play solid team ball.

The American stars did look they were starting to fi early in the world championship series as they went on to replace Jamaica blow-out wins.

However, a major crack was to surface in the Cl match against Italy.

Outscored and grimly threatened after the first half time saw three and the Italians, the US team turned to Carmelo Anthony who looked it out by single-handedly taking over scoring duties.

* * *

The US pleasured Italy four, in the process, dispelled the major defect that would cause it to fall into frustration in the second game against Greece.

Pushed behind in the third quarter by Greece, the US this time called on another scoring star, Dwyane Wade, to save it.

Again Wade responded with 20 points in the final quarter, but the wildly playing Greeks were far too superior—for team playing as one.

Of course, it was not only the story of how the Americans lost.

More than anything, it should be the amazing tale of how the Greeks did it.

There are, indeed, formulas which can not be perfected summits and applied overnight.

More than the narrow individualism, there are failures in the system, visible in team defense, which belabled Team USA.

Still, it was the scary case of America being victims of its strong idea of power, a case of the US falling prey to its own reign.

Jazz mike expert Jazz features: "The US could not even be in five shots. Jazzes and Blazin are awesome playground athletes."

Touche'. For the Athletics, it would again be back to playground basics, unlike savvy at the moment of trials.

* * *

Repeatedly crowded at the choked area and forced to rush shots from outside, the US predictably could not find an instant solution to the crippling team defense, a choking force initially applied by the Greeks when they fell behind by two 10 points in their quarterfinal match against China.

In that game against China, the Greeks defended as though they were facing killers, passing three men against any potential scorer, then juggling rules the receiver with at least two more defenders.

Greece would appear to find an hour a total of eight men working on the floor, thereby reducing the Chinese to frantic, unethical dribblers, as though they had trained in the Philippines.

Or, the final match had yet to be completed at this reporting. Not this epic Greek trio over the US was indeed bigger than the championship itself.

So here's Greece's Theodoros Papaloukas, front league MVP, extolling his team: "That's the history of sport. They are heroes children. But we know how to play the game. We are clever. Now I hope we get more respect in the world. Our best weapon is clarity."

For the Greeks, it definitely was—unlike what is in the Philippines—NOT time for the 1983 and the gold US style of play.

WVL meeting set Tuesday

MLC BEST CONTENDERS FOR OPENING-level meeting for the UP Women's Volleyball League on Tuesday at the Quezon City Sports Club. Although the event is scheduled on Jan. 7 next year the meeting has been set early to give schools ample time to prepare for their teams and entry forms. WVL is an inter-school volleyball tournament with four divisions—elementary, developmental, alternative non-varsities, high school, developmental and high school competitive. Tournament commissioner Tonichi "Ito" Santos said the meeting will start at 3 p.m.

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St. Benilde, Miriam fives stay unbeaten

COLLEGE OF ST. BENILDE AND MIRIAM COLLEGE KEPT THEIR UNBEATEN records undefeated over an eleven-OB College extended to winning set in the WINDOW senior basketball tournament of the 2006 game. Miriam's ousted Siena College, 103-13, and ousted Group B with the seventh win, while 10th-seeded St. Scholastica, 86-66, for its fifth win in Group A. ARCC also posted its fifth win in a row with a 20-14 win over St. Francis of Assisi.

Sueco-Thai tilt for Orient crown set Oct. 14

THE BATTLE FOR THE VACANT ORIENTAL AND PACIFIC REGIONAL BOXING (ORB) lightweight title between Filipino Randy Suico and Thailand's Pongsaklek Chuwatana will take place on Oct. 14 at a still undisclosed venue in Manila. This was confirmed yesterday by Suico's trainer, Joselito Adriano, who said that his ward has been training since Duko. This will be Suico's first fight since his failed attempt to unseat the WBA crown on July 15.

—Zaldarri L. Lagumbay, contributor

Ailing Antonio third GM to skip qualifiers

By Roy Luarca

EVAN IS BE SENDED TO GRAND-master Rogelio "Boy" Antonio is to an condition to compete in the ongoing elimination tournament for the Philippine team to the Dubai Asian Games in December.

Antonio, however, said he's will undergoing medication for stomach problems and he decided he best time to seek a spot in the national team to be composed of two men and one woman.

"I didn't boycott the tournament," said Antonio. "It's just that I need to have more rest, according to my doctors."

Antonio said he was also forced to skip the 3rd Peregrino Pelayo Memorial Tournament in Cauayan City and the Cauayan Open in Baguio City last month due to health reasons.

The 43-year-old Antonio, the country's second ranked player after Mark Paragua, added that he's not against the eliminations being conducted by the United Chess Federation of the Philippines at the Mall of Asia.

"It's only the form (elimination) I didn't

ANTONIO: Online courtesy format.

like," said Antonio, who hails from Calapan City Oriental Mindoro. "As far as I know we have country is using it for eliminative purposes."

Antonio cited Nonoy, the Philippines traditional rival, which held a round-robin tournament among its top four players to determine its Asian team. Host China, on the other hand, imported American players to represent the country in the field.

Paragua and GM Eugene Torre also gave the eliminations a nod and are deemed out of the Philippine team like Antonio.

NCFP president Dep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay and secretary general and Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino earlier stressed that everybody (including the GMs) have to go through the eliminations to qualify for Team Philippines.

SIBAYAN (left) and Madamba rule it home in their respective categories.

Sibayan, Madamba rule Butuan Milo run elims

BUTUAN CITY—MERLEEN SIBAYAN AND Israel Madamba yesterday topped the 21K qualifying race of the 2006 National Milo Marathon here.

Sibayan, who ruled the Davao City leg last year but failed to finish in the same race on July 3 due to an injury, returned another trip to the national finals by crafting the two-hour reign of Gemerson Sonicat Jr.

"Sibayan is strong," said Aparece of Carolina Rizal in Cebuano. "I tried to chase him, but he was too fast for me. But at least I still qualified to the finals."

Sibayan, a Criminology student at the University of Mindanao in Davao City finished the race in one hour, nine minutes and 50 seconds.

Despite improving his personal time, Aparece settled for second place in 1:12:07. Marites Bolivar of Cagayan de Oro placed third in 1:15:20.

Madamba, on the other hand, had to endure a stiff fight to the finish to edge 20-year-old Mary Rose Ayeno at the mailbox.

Ayeno grabbed the lead early in the women's race but let the 29-year-old Madamba, who has won every Milo Marathon leg she joined since 1997, caught up with the younger runner with two kilometers left in the race.

Madamba, who also topped this leg in 2004, breasted the tape in 1:34:40. Ayeno came in 12 seconds later. Catherine Hinoguing, 18, of Valencia placed third in 1:44:27.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's 21K races automatically qualify for the National Finals on Oct. 8 in Metro Manila.

Saturday's event, held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism and Powerlite, drew 3,000 participants in the 21K, 5K and Children 3K race.

The top three finishers in the 5K race were Eurem Ingcado (15:44), Rod John Godoys (17:54) and Ara Bautista (17:57) in the men's class and Jennelle Ingcoro (21:31), Ger Christine Ada (21:50) and Shanelle Sale (22:38) in the female side.

The winners in the Milo Dot events were Neil Tampubolon and Rhea Mae Bellaluna in the 6-9 years-old category and Debbie Dojas and Vincent Cuizon in the 10-12 group.

John O, 5th Avenue forge showdown

IT WILL BE JOHN D AGAINST 5TH Avenue Valencia for the 30th Bunny Squires Cup basketball title.

John O held off a fierce rally by King's Subdivision to win, 79-66, while 5th Avenue battled on a frenzied hearing basket by Alex Magpayo to name our Spring Tagaytay 67-65, in the semifinals on Saturday and arrange a best-of-three crowd showdown tonight at the Lyceum gym.

Baby playmaker Nino Marquez scored a game-high 21 points to power John O, which outpaced King's Subdivision, 20-0, in the third quarter to wipe out a 34-32, halftime deficit.

5th Avenue recovered from a slow start to outmuscle the confident Spring and Tagaytay teams in the last 20 minutes of play.

The scores:

5TH AVENUE 67—Magpayo 17, Aldor 15, Dela Cruz 13, Zapata 10, Virgata 7, Aquino 3, Abrenica 3, Ilar 0

SPRING SUBDIVISION 65—J. Ilano 17, Alvarez 15, Fernandez 13, Cajucom 8, Salgado 6, Ilar 4, Ventura 2, Aldaya 1

Scores: 15-20, 32-32, 52-45, 67-65

JOHN D 79—Gloquer 24, Gonzales 16, Bugarin 14, De Castro 8, Mendoza 6, Cagayat 4, Gonzales 2, De Guzman 2

KING'S SUBDIVISION 66—Cruz 16, Ilano 12, Palaypay 12, Cortez 10, Salcedo 5, Silvestre 4, Ilano 3, Cortez 2, Aldaya 1

Scores: 19-12, 32-37, 49-50, 66-79

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Did PBA attendance drop after each Asiad debacle?

I COULD BE WRONG, BUT PAST EXPERIENCE showed that attendance in the games of the Philippine Basketball Association dropped dramatically after each debacle in the Asian Games, starting in Beijing in 1990, when the pro league scattered the responsibility of representing the country in the quadrennial event.

In that 1990 Beijing Games, the Philippines, playing under coach Gene Jeworski, finished second to host China. Another PBA selection, this time mentored by Norman Black, placed fourth in Hiroshima in 1994, while the Fil-Oriental Team, headed by Tim Cone, landed third in Bangkok in 1998. Four years later in Busan, the Philippines, coached by Jong Uichico, dabbled in fourth, frustrating millions of basketball fans obsessed with winning.

In my view, this series of reversals was a compelling reason why the fans have abandoned us from most PBA games.

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Diaz

As PBA chair Sicky Sergio correctly said, "Good performances in an international competition has a link to an increased interest in basketball in the country and this indirectly affects the economy and also indirectly affects the PBA." He added that the PBA International will also be in conflict with the colonial plans of the PBA All-Filipino Cup. "I don't think it's right to disrupt our calendar any further," Sergio said.

However, I'm not buying his last pitch. Didn't the PBA already synchronize its schedule with the FIBA International basketball federation) calendar a few years ago?

On the other hand, national coach Chot Reyes, who once hurried for participation in this year's Doha Asian Games, has changed his mind. "Now, PBA participation in the Asiad was a long-run conclusion," he said.

"I think it would be unfair to ask the players to keep on training for nothing," Reyes reasoned, adding he would have just one objective: "I wouldn't know what to tell them."

In the Doha Asiad, the Philippines —granting that the Fiba suspension on the country is lifted following the designation of businessman-sports patron Manny Pangilinan as head of the three-man panel that will form basketball's new national sports association, as mandated by the international federation—will find it hard to beat the Ming-led China, defending champion South Korea, Kazakhstan, Lebanon and host Qatar.

Since 1986, the Philippines has not beaten China in basketball. In the 2003 Fiba-Asia (formerly ABC) tournament, the Philippines finished a distant 10th. The second-to-the-last finish was the country's worst ever in the 43-year history of the Olympic qualifier. The next Fiba-Asia qualifier will be held in 2007.

The very idea of winning in the Asian Games and the Olympics is not necessarily bigger issues or to the naive fans. Filipino players are small in built compared to their taller, lovelier and fairer rivals. Worse, our present crop of mostly PBA players and a few collegians start undergoing haphazard training only a few months before basketball bonfires' punchout for selecting national teams at the last minute.

Perhaps, we could learn a lesson or two from European champion Greece, which upset the powerhouse United States in this year's World Basketball Championship in Japan. Fr'ship. The Greeks have been playing as a team for many years, hence they were better organized.

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2 title fights in 'Bakbakan'

A GLOBALISTIC NIGHT (AND YEAR) is in the offing here this weekend as Sept. 17 at the Don Bosco Open Gym of the Cantada Sports Center in Bacolod, Negros Occ. Promoted by sportsman Edgardo "Boy" Cantada, the boxing program dubbed "Bakbakan Sa Bacolod" features Nonoy Dayo (semi-welterweight champ) of the Philippines against mandatory challenger Mong Elorde, and Honduras artist Ricardo Cordon making his PH debut against Philippine Olympian Rey Saludar, a two-division titlist. Undercard matches will also be held.

The main event will be at 10 rounds, while the co-feature will be at 12 rounds. Both bouts are for the vacant Asian Boxing Federation (ABF) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) Youth titles, respectively.

Dayo, who was knocked out by Elorde in the 10th round of their first encounter in 2004, is confident that he will avenge his loss. "I'm training hard for this fight. I'm ready to fight anytime, anywhere," he said.

Elorde, on the other hand, is also confident that he will win. "I'm ready to fight. I'm in good shape," he said.

Cordon, who is undefeated in 10 fights, is also confident that he will win. "I'm ready to fight. I'm in good shape," he said.

Saludar, who is undefeated in 10 fights, is also confident that he will win. "I'm ready to fight. I'm in good shape," he said.

The undercard matches will also be held.

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BUSINESS
Editor Raul D. Marcelo • Associate Editor Cecile S. Montano

Traders urge gov't to end Naia 3 impasse

IN THIS ISSUE

■ Bank exodus /B5
■ Upbeat stock trading seen /B4
■ SSS seeks neutrality in boardroom brawl /B10

PCCI wants decisive action to open terminal

By Norma V. Dominguez

THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST BUSINESS ORGANIZATION has urged Malacañang to take immediate steps to open the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, saying it was time to move forward and let the much-needed facility operate.

Donald G. Dee, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the business community would fully support a firm government action to immediately open the terminal for full operations.

"We believe that such firm measures action would have a crowd effect in strongly perceived as the government's lack of political will to place national interest, image and prestige above the selfish interest of private individuals or groups," Dee said.

He added that the PCCI was calling on the contending groups to make the best sacrifice for the sake of the country.

The impasse between the national government and builder Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. dragged on since the former took over the May 31 to June 2004 to re-engage to open the facility through expropriation.

TRADERS /B1

Brittany

Banks not 'lazy,' just cautious

BAP disputes Neri statement

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BANKERS Association of the Philippines (BAP) said Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri was unfair in calling the banking industry "lazy" in performing its role of helping boost the country's economy through increased lending.

Banks have invested their other resources in an attempt to help the country but to do with lack of creditworthy borrowers and investors, which would be considered as a business climate that was not attractive enough for businesses.

"Secretary Neri's statement is a little bit disconcerting. His statement should instead be a more frank economic activism, and Media (National Economic and Development Authority) has a lot to do with that.

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Cielito F. Habito

email this author

WHEN MUST GOVERNMENT INTERVENE IN the economy and when must it keep its hands off?

Academic economists are often lauded for being too partial to liberalized markets. But not even the most zealous free-market economists would argue that the government should entirely keep its hands off the economy.

Interventions

Should government be in the business of producing and selling goods and services—like rice, medicines, electricity, education, health services, or third-party liability car insurance—to the public, or should it just leave these to the private sector? Should it be selling petroleum firms when and how much they must produce? Should it pick "winners" among the economic sectors and then government tax and subsidy policies toward them?

It is right for government to tax its citizens' every move, from earning income, owning property, travelling abroad, selling/buying cigarettes, text messages, and practically everything else... and then decide who can be exempted from paying those taxes? Should it tax the rich more heavily than it does the poor...or even the other way around (which we indicated in last week's column to be our case)?

Invisible hand

It is largely true that leaving the market alone usually leads to outcomes that are efficient—that is, one where the economy's limited resources are put to their best use. When the government tries to "play god" and decide what, how much, how, and for whom goods and services are to be produced—in short, the basic resource allocation decisions in the economy—it invariably ends things up. China and the former Soviet Union tried for many years, and eventually decided to give it up. The only items on the face of the earth now embracing the WTO Sixth Sense and Cuba persist in that path, with disastrous effects for the future and welfare of those in the know.

Adam Smith, considered the father of modern economics, had argued in the eighteenth century that left to themselves (Laissez faire), markets would be guided by an "invisible hand" that ensures the most efficient outcomes.

When markets fail

But perhaps what Adam Smith did not explain enough was that markets are far from perfect. They often fail to yield efficient outcomes, and most often, fail to yield outcomes that are equitable or fair. Economics textbooks give at least three reasons why markets fail: public goods, externalities and economies of scale.

Some goods and services are public goods that, in the words of economists, are non-rival and non-excludable. Where you buy a rare drug for yourself, you keep everyone else from using it; it is a rival good. But when you benefit from the security of having a national defense system in place, others can benefit from it as much as you do (non-rival), and neither can anyone prevent everyone else from enjoying that benefit as well (non-excludable). In such cases, people will want to "free ride" and avoid paying for these services, or at least pay less than what it really means to them. Thus, it won't work for a private firm to produce and sell such public goods. Government must step in and provide them directly.

Externalities

When firms produce and people consume certain products and services, they could inflict some indirect damage (external costs) or cause indirect benefits (external benefits) on others. For example, when a cement factory pollutes a river, government must make the producer absorb that additional cost imposed on society or local bans to owners it. Conversely, and to explain the production outright (e.g. improve toilet facilities for students), or tax the factory in proportion to the pollution it causes. When the owners of dilapidated colonial houses in Vigan or Pila spend money to repair and restore their homes, everyone else benefits from the improved ambience and preservation of cultural heritage. Thus, government can be justified in subsidizing their restoration costs (e.g. by real property tax exemptions, as was done in Vigan, or outright funding assistance). Whether such or better, so-called "externalities" may warrant government intervention is the basis of addi-

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Upbeat stock trading seen

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

STOCK TRADING IS EXPECTED TO BE more upbeat this week, boosted by a stronger peso, falling oil prices and some "window-dressing" to close the quarter, traders said.

Oil prices slid below $70 a barrel on Friday with markets betting there would be no rush

Strong peso, falling oil prices boost sentiment

to slap economic sanctions on major oil producer Iran.

Analysts earlier believed that Iran, the world's fourth biggest producer of crude, could be punished with sanctions after the Islamic republic ignored a United Nations deadline last week to freeze its controversial nuclear energy program.

Markets have warned that Iran could respond to sanctions by quarting itself exports, leading to soaring oil prices.

The peso's rally to $1.70/$1 a dollar on Friday is also expected to boost market sentiment this week.

The peso was buoyed by optimism on the economy with the government confident that growth this year would be within its target range of 5.5 & 6.5 percent after gross domestic product grew to an annual rate of 5.5 percent in the second quarter.

"The peso is strong, oil prices are down and even gold is going up. There is a lot of liquidity especially from the locals," said Joseph Roxas, president at Eagle Equities Inc.

Roxas added that news of higher US jobs in August, which left economists hopeful that the American economy will not fall into recession, could also boost the positive market sentiment.

All Capital Securities said September was normally a strong month in the stock market as fund managers typically window-dress to close the quarter.

"We noticed that a lot of the market's attention is still on the speculative second and third-liners rather than the bigger cap issues," All Capital Securities said in a weekly note to clients.

Several companies hit their price ceilings last Friday to cross funds chased some speculative stocks. Among the companies which traded 50 percent higher than their previous day's close were Megaton Holdings Inc. (up 50 percent at P1.89), Seafront Resources Corp. (up 50 percent to P1.68), Mabuhay Holdings Corp., (up 50 percent to 36 centavos), Baguio Gold Holdings Corp. (up 50 percent to 36.4¢) and Iron Holdings (up 50 percent to 22.5 centavos).

The PSE endorses a price freeze limit when the share price of an issue moves 50 percent up or 40 percent down on a particular day limit, its last closing price. It is aimed at guarding against price manipulation.

Robinsons plans 5 malls, hotel

ROBINSONS LAND CORP. OF TAIWAN JOB SU Gokongwei Jr. building new malls and possibly a new hotel in Tagaytay City in the next two to three years as it continues to remain bullish on the economy.

In a draft prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), RLC identified five new malls that may open between 2007 and 2009. In Iloilo City, Manolo Davao City, Davao del Sur), Tagaytay City, Dumaguete City (Negros Oriental), and Pavilion (Batangas).

These sites will add 120,000 square meters in terms of gross floor area to the company's existing 18 malls with a total floor area of 1.2 million square meters.

RLC said it was also expanding Robinsons Place Manila by another 61,672 square meters to include boutiques with luxury brands and a first-class restaurant. The expansion of Robinsons Manila may be completed in the first quarter of 2008.

Expansion of Robinsons Place in Bacolod is also ongoing to include themed retail zones that may showcase regional Philippine cuisine, brands and products and other retail services. This will result to an additional 5,329 square meters and may be completed by the third quarter of 2008.

RLC's commercial center division, which develops, leases and manages shopping malls, accounted for 69 percent of RLC's total revenues in the first half of 2006 and roughly 68 percent of total income in the same period.

RLC is also beefing up its hotel portfolio with plans to build one in Tagaytay City. The hotel is currently in the design phase and may be completed in 2009. The proposed hotel will consist of 54 hotel rooms, 26 serviced apartments, five luxury villas and condominium units. As of June 30, RLC's hotel division accounted for 13.6 percent of its total revenues. The property giant now has three hotels and an ayuntalio offering a total of 820 rooms. These are Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila (283 rooms), Holiday Inn Galleria (283 rooms), Cebu Midtown Hotel (187 rooms) and Robinsons Ermita (75 rooms) Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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Traders urge gov't to end . . .

From page B1

Last week, the International Chamber of Commerce's arbitration court ruled that the government should give back possession of the terminal to Piatco, but officials said it would only follow the decision of the Philippine judiciary.

The Supreme Court ruled in May 2000 that all five contracts related to the Terminal 3 project were void as they were contrary to public policy and violative of the Build-Operate-Transfer law.

In January 2003, the Pasay City Regional Trial Court judge ordered the government to pay Piatco $83.3 million for the expropriation of the Phase 3.

"The issue has dragged on for too long and the opposing parties were given numerous chances above their own," Teo added.

He said the business leaders could not allow those with personal or selfish interest to prevail over the harmony that existed among them in the business community.

"It is time to move forward and a strong and united resolve to this end will project that businessmen can work together for the sake of national interest," Teo said.

Last year, the Joint Foreign Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines urged Malacañang to muster political will to resolve the impasse and make the terminal useful as soon as possible.

In a letter to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, it said there was "minimal indication of any real progress" having been made with the matter after more than six months of negotiations. "This single issue stands as the largest obstacle to attracting foreign investment capital to the Philippines...particularly in respect of much needed infrastructure projects."

The group includes the following chambers of commerce: American, Australia-New Zealand, Canadian, European, Japanese and Korean. A seventh member is the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters.

iBank exodus

BANK CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ARTURO Monzon Jr. has quietly packed up and is moving on to Eastern Bank to become its new president and chief operating officer, according to this paper's sources. Eastern is just awaiting for the Central Bank's (sorry) approval of Monzon's appointment before making an announcement.

Monzon joins his president/CEO Ramon Siy—who had gone on to become Metrobank's vice chairman—and about 200 staffers who have left the International Exchange Bank since the merger with Bolton Bank was accepted in June.

Monzon is taking with him SVP Gerardo Sanvicente and vice president Ivy Uy to the Bolton-controlled bank, another young bank like iBank, having opened a year earlier in 1994.

In addition to Monzon's, EVP for information and technology management Ramon Timoteo—who resigned even without clear job prospects, while SVP for compliance officer Flora Ay, who is 64, has chosen to retire.

Majority of the 200—iBank had exactly 1,511 permanent employees as of mid-2005—also left are middle-level officers of the six vice managers, for example, three have already packed out. In addition to Eastwest, Security Bank is said to have also picked the best of the lot, leaving not only acquisitive new managers but also the banks' new treasury team.

With Monzon's impending resignation, the current diehard president, Steve Ramos, who has been with the Gotianun bank since day one, is expected to be promoted vice chairman and chief executive officer.

The P3-B debate

COMMISSION, the Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments on whether the temporary restraining Prince principal Jefferson Dewey and his underwriters pursue from putting their hands on the P3-billion windfall from Mactaguay will be made permanent.

The TRO was obtained by Grace Ice Rep. Eduardo Ramirez and his counsel, Ateneo professor Jose Bernas, who will argue tomorrow against their Edsa II colleague, former Senate congressman now Solicitor General Eduardo "Bobi" Ermita Medroso.

Bernas and Barbers, incidentally, were partners in the attempt to impeach then Executive Commissioner Lourdesdes Tuscangco.

During the oral arguments, the government counsel will uncomfortably find itself on the same side with Ramos, despite in official position that the Prince contract is fraught with irregularities.

Prince lawyer Rolando delos Angeles, who sees Bernas' down at the dockets, has taken the cautious position that, while Ramos opposes the government expropriation of Terminal 3, the contractor is nevertheless eager to receive the initial P3-billion payment.

According to the proponent, Bernas will ask Barbers to explain why Mactaguay is insistent on expropriating Terminal 3 when the allegedly unexpected insurance is built on government land.

Bernas' thesis is that the government should simply eject Dewey from Terminal 3 and thereafter relandscape the developer the cost of construction, instead of compromising it under the more expensive replacement or market value plan, as is being pursued by Malacañang under the expropriation law.

Barbers, on the other hand, is expected to go for the jugular and argue that Bolinska and Bernas have no standing to question the expropriation because the Manila International Airport Authority, the government entity that is actually leasing over the P3-billion check, does not depend on a congressional budget for funding.

Prince, in turn, will be asked to make a concise legal position whether it intends to waive or guarantee from both the land expropriation proceedings and the international arbitration in Singapore.

In the Singapore proceedings, Prince still insists that it should retain and operate Terminal 3 despite whatever payments it may receive from the Philippine government.

The arguments will be heard by Justices Renato Dacudao, Rosmari Carandang and Ricardo Rivera-Bernabe.

Money-go-round

◆ LAWYER Rolando Elizondo has retired from his 17-year chairmanship of the Makati Business

COCKTALES B6

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Victor C. Agustin

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Christopher Silva (Estate)	January 1, 2001	21	1

evidencing their ownership of shares of the Corporation were inadvertently lost while the application of one (1) year from the date of the last publication of this Notice, the Corporation shall cancel in its stock and stock certificates which have been lost, and replacement stock certificates shall be issued in lieu thereof, unless the stockholders post a bond in such amount as may be satisfactory to the Board, in which case, new stock certificates may be issued even before the expiration of the one (1) year period.

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Korea firm seeks partner in acquiring Mirant assets

By Abigail L. Ho

KOREA ELECTRIC POWER CORP. (KEPCO) is now in talks with Japanese and European firms with which it can form a partnership to acquire the Philippine assets of Mirant Corp.

Kepco Philippines Corp. president Lee Jae Gu said the power firm would decide within the month which company it would invite to bid for Mirant's power plants.

Lee said that Kepco's potential partners already have existing businesses in the country, particularly in the power generation sector.

But with or without a partner, Lee said that Kepco has its own checklist and technical capabilities to bid for Mirant's assets.

"We have been involved in the power business for more than 50 years, and Kepco is an expert in operating and maintaining all kinds of power plants," he told reporters. "I think we have some advantage, but we don't know how Mirant will consider our capabilities."

Kepco, through Republico, has been in the country since 1995. It operates the 600-megawatt (MW) Ilijan combined-cycle natural gas power plant in Batangas and the 1,200-MW Subic coal-fired power plant in Subic.

It will also be putting up a 200-MW coal-fired power plant in Naga, Cebu, together with Salcon Power Corp.

Republico is the country's second largest independent power producer, next to Mirant Philippines Corp.

"We are interested in Mirant, since we are continuously expanding our operations in the country," Lee said. "We have accumulated over the years of know-how in the Philippines."

Early last month, Mirant announced that it would be selling its Philippine and Caribbean business units as part of its plan to focus on its home business, as well as to reduce its debt or value following its emergence from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last January.

Mirant currently owns and operates the 1,200-MW Sual and the 735-MW Pagbilao coal-fired power plants in Pangasinan and Quezon, respectively. It also holds a 28-percent stake in the Ilijan power facility.

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GSIS e-card (Part 2)

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honorato C. General

dr. Washington 903.78, USA. In April 2005, her pension stopped. When she wrote the GSIS about it, she was told to appoint an attorney in fact in the could receive the pension in Manila. Apparently this was in line with the program of the GSIS for verifying whether the retirees are still alive. (The GSIS does this also every once in a while).

But, there is no Philippine consulate in Seattle. Anybody who needs to have a document notarized will either have to cross the Canadian border to Vancouver or, as Magdalena did, wait for the attendant staff to make the occasional visit to Seattle.

By the time Magdalena's granddaughter entered her person of attorney, the e-card system was already in place. GSIS offers non-embossing machines, "scanners," (shown) / validation of pensioner's ID/e-card shall be upon personal appearance of the pensioner at the handling branch/office."

The GSIS to note holding Magdalena's pension money until she comes all the way from Seattle to make a personal appearance at the Manila branch is unfair to claim her e-card and remains her meager pension of 35,700 (about US$1,140 per month). The dollars have still not lost about 33 months' pension.

Here is Magdalena's dog. 16 letters to the GSIS delivered personally by her granddaughter Milagros. Read it and weep. "This letter addresses my pension which has been withheld for almost a year now. When we communicated via mail in 2005, your agency asked me to prove I was alive by obtaining my person of attorney that I pass to my grandchildren Milagros Filomeno Acosta-Ito. Obtaining my special power of attorney from the Philippine consulate was very difficult because there is no consulate in the part of the United States that are located in. I am bound to the city of Seattle in Washington State because I have no place of my own and I have no job for support and I only have small government support for food. I rely on my children for everything. So when you requested my presence in the Philippines to release my pension this was an impossible task for me to perform. Not only is there a financial barrier but also, being 80 years old, traveling is the distance to get access in front of you would be too much for my health and energy. With an affidavit because of my special power of attorney which has been given to Milagros Villanueva Bermundo (my granddaughter) from our sara Philippine consulate, I have proved no more than reasonable reason that I am still living. I ask for your consideration and kindness to release my pension for my survival."

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SBMA to build convention complex

By Bernel W. Dominguez

THE SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY is keen on building a convention center complex worth at least P600 million to push efforts in making the freeport a major hub for local and foreign tourists.

SBMA administrator and chief executive Armand C. Arteta said the agency intended to finance the project with its own internal earnings but "no private investors ever put money in convention centers."

Arteta said the planned complex would include hotels, casinos, malls and office buildings. *A convention center by itself would not bring in as much business as such a complex would,* he said.

"The project is expected to cost from P600 million and P700 million when built," Arteta said. "Fully equipped and furnished, the cost could reach about P1 billion."

The SBMA chief said the agency had no intention of increasing room rates for the project and that it would rely heavily from interested investors.

He said the convention hall would occupy a full hectare, which means a total of two hectares for the center alone.

Earlier this month, Arteta said the SBMA was trying to enlist big developers to get into the project.

"We had sent a team to Singapore to see my interest in this," he said. "We hope to start construction work by 2006."

In an earlier interview, Arteta said investors were developing plans to build more top class accommodation facilities in Subic as authorities push for further development of the freeport as a tourist destination.

He said the SBMA-initiated projects that served to increase the stock of first-rate accommodation in Subic, where available rooms are first-class and standard.

Also, the SBMA is offering discount on international fees of up to 60 percent in an effort to attract more airline operators to fly to Subic and, therefore, boost tourism in the area.

Officials said the SBMA was looking into the possibility of Subic Bay International Airport being able to service trains to and ports in Asia.

The efforts of Subic authorities complement a program spearheaded by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry aimed at developing Subic Bay as international gateway to the country.

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Metrobank sets aside P3.5B for loan-loss provision

METROPOLITAN BANK AND TRUST CO. plans to set aside P3.5 billion in loan-loss provisioning this year as part of its program to boost asset quality, bank president Arthur Ty said.

The lifetime chief told reporters Friday on the sidelines of its annual research night for outstanding bankers that the planned loan provisioning for this year would be higher than the actual amount set aside last year.

The bank earmarked about P2 billion in additional provisions for loans last year.

He added that the bank would pursue "more" earnings performance this year, despite some unfavorable factors like the country's economic growth would be softer in the second semester.

"The third quarter has been okay. There has been a recovery. It was the second quarter that's bad," Ty said.

He said that the lending activity in the country remained sluggish despite the low interest rate regime, he said. "I'm not saying they're not lending any more but regulations are encouraging banks to be more prudent which is not necessarily bad."

At the time, he said up the bank's capital following a successful $125 million hybrid tier 1 offering early this year. Ty said Metrobank would push through with its plan to raise an additional $150 million through a bank stock rights offering.

However, Ty wouldn't say for sure whether the offering would be pursued within this year.

Metrobank plans to offer up to 566 million to new shares in existing equity holders. Based on securities disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the offer price would be computed based on a 0 to 10 percent discount to either the closing price on the trading day preceding the pricing date or the weighted average price of the shares in the last 30 trading days preceding the pricing date. Doris C. Bumatay

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Holcim embarks on P1-B rehab of Davao line

Investments to be infused despite soft demand

HOLCIM PHILIPPINES WILL invest up to P1 billion over the next 12 months to revive its cement manufacturing facility in Davao City, bank on full operating capacity by mid-2007.

The planned investment comes after the facility's main production line was destroyed by the collapse of a storage silo earlier this year.

"The P1-billion investment demonstrates our long-term commitment to the economic growth of Davao and the rest of Mindanao," Holcim Philippines chief operating officer Neil O'Callaghan said in a statement.

Officials of the Switzerland-based cement firm noted that the economic woes being made despite the prevailing overcapacity in the industry's production facilities—a sign, they said, of the firm's optimism in the prospects of the local economy.

The rehabilitation and construction of the damaged line will raise the pressure on an older cement production facility in Davao—long since mothballed—which the firm re-commissioned temporarily to continue production.

Holcim noted, however, that demand for cement had remained "soft" since 1998, when market demand slumped by 13 percent following the onset of the Asian financial crisis the previous year.

Over the past seven years, demand has declined nearly one-tenth in 2005.

For this year, the company is still expecting zero growth in demand despite recent government pronouncements that it would pump-prime the economy through a more aggressive level of infrastructure spending.

Holcim Philippines added, however, that it would continue its process expansion "aimed at making its plants operate efficiently and according to world-class environmental standards."

"In anticipation of an eventual economic upturn, [the company] has allotted funds to long-term to [sic] lines to good working condition," it added.

In addition to the Davao plant, the company operates fully-integrated cement manufacturing facilities in La Union, Bulacan and Misamis Oriental. The Bulacan plant has an entire production unit with an annual capacity of 800,000 tons that has also been shut down since 1998. Reports, Luisa

Indian firm seeks site for high-capacity cable project's landing station

By Rina T. Dizhonoles

BOMBAY TELECOM LIMITED NODE Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL), is considering the Philippines as a potential site for a landing station of a $300-million high-capacity submarine cable system, according to a statement posted on the company's website.

The cable system will link Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan.

VSNL is part of India's Tata Group and is a leading international telecommunications company. With its acquisition of Teleglobe, VSNL became one of the world's largest carriers of international voice, complimenting its emergence as the largest provider of submarine cable bandwidth.

The India-based carrier said in the statement that its interconnect arm, VSNL Singapore, would spearhead the establishment of the intra-Asian cable system starting December this year.

VSNL is also considering Chennai, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Guam for the project's landing stations.

The company said the new intra-Asia cable would enable VSNL to better serve global customers who were doing business in and with the burgeoning Asia-Pacific markets.

The company said it was in the process of finalizing design details, ordering suppliers and identifying additional partners for the project.

The intra-Asian cable system will be linked to the India-Europe-US submarine cable system which is currently being built to provide connectivity to the Gulf region and the 60 least customers.

The intra-Asia cable, when combined with the Tata Indicom Cable System and the "E2E Pearl" or cable system, would complete FSPG (Gulf Straits) capability from India to Asia and onward to the US, the carrier said.

"The new cables would enhance VSNL's global network as two of the fastest growing regions in the world," said R Ramesh, VSNL executive director.

VSNL said it embarked on the project in response to rapidly growing demand for international connectivity from several Indian companies, led by Tata Group enterprises, that have installed investment projects overseas.

VSNL added that increased connectivity was also an important driver of growth of the IT, BPO and KPO sectors.

The market for international and internet bandwidth is expected to expand as the reduced prices will encourage demand from new customer segments like SMEs, smaller SPs and academic institutions.

Banks not 'lazy,' just . . .

From page B1

[illegible] business climate]," Lorenzo Tan said, executive director of the BSP, said in an interview.

Current said factors like high energy cost, lack of infrastructure and rigid labor environment discourage the entry of more foreign direct investments, a reason for the relatively weak lending activity.

Cesar Virata, former BAP president, said that while lending was the main activity of banks, they had to be very prudent.

"If there are very little investments, banks cannot push loans to people who do not want to borrow. We have to keep the banking system sound," Virata told the inquirer in an interview.

He said banks could not afford to be lax in lending, considering the problems encountered by Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries during the financial crisis in the late 1990s. The crisis was triggered by bank failures, which were blamed on unsound lending practices.

No free lunch

From page B4

[illegible] taxes or subsidies.

Anti-trust laws

Bigger firms often enjoy a cost advantage over smaller ones due to economies of scale, leading to a tendency for bigger businesses to overcome or "eat up" their smaller competitors. Last week, we identified this phenomenon as a key reason why the rich tend to get even richer. When economies of scale make bigness an advantage in an industry, governments can impose rules that restrict the [illegible] advantage, prevent big industry players from bullying their small or competitors with unfair trade practices, or enhance and expand competition in the industry. The U.S. has anti-trust laws that accomplish this; we have yet to provide the same in our legal system.

Government has no business being in business, it is often argued. But as in every rule, there can be valid exceptions. The challenge is to selling industries are indeed valid.

Comments welcome at [illegible]@yahoo.com.

Cocktales

From page B3

Club, and replaced by Ramon del Rosario Jr. of the Phinma Group. Joining the RBC board for the first time is Doris Magsaysay Ho of Magsaysay Shipping.

• FORMER PLDT spokesperson Antonio Gaanan has been elected president/CEO of Mindshare Worlds, a media-buying account of the five biggest Philippine advertising agencies—Ayer Communications, AIR Communications, Aspac Advertising, Anthem and Amanresa and Asia Communications—with Viacom, the largest media group in the US and Europe.

Heard through the grapevine

THE MUTTERERS Pricerbuster will bounce back next month as "S&R," banking back to its original name, S&R Price, when the warehouse-style shopping club opened for business during the boop years.

Instead of the four stores, only the Magallo Post and Alabang branches will be reopened.

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Benguet posts losses

Benguet Corporation Nickel Corporation (BNCNC) posted a net loss of P1.2 million in the second quarter of 2006, down from a net income of P1.1 million in the same period last year.

The company's net sales for the quarter reached P1.3 billion, down from P1.4 billion in the same period last year.

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DE LA PAZ

EQUITABLE-BDO MERGER BID

SSS seeks neutrality in boardroom brawl

By Dante L. Lucas

THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) does not exactly care whether Henry Sy's Banco de Oro Universal Bank gets to gobble up Equitable PCI Bank, according to SSS president Corazon de la Paz.

What is important, she said, is that the state-administered pension fund gets the best returns on the funds of its members, made up of about 16 million active and retired private sector employees.

De la Paz also stressed over the weekend that she is not allied with the group of the small tycoon that is trying to merge Equitable PCI with Banco de Oro.

"I am very independent on this matter," she said. "I am not allied with the Sys, contrary to the perception of the public and media."

De La Paz sits as chief of Equitable PCI's board of directors since the SSS owns approximately 20 percent of the bank's stock.

Equitable PCI is the country's third largest bank with P366 billion in total assets under management, after Banco de Oro is the fifth largest with total assets of P239 billion. A successful merger between the two will create the country's largest financial institution, completely edging out current heavyweight Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.

During a telephone interview on the weekend, De La Paz also stressed her ability to collaborate her views as chairwoman of Equitable PCI (asked to name the section of the bank...and has role in SSS procedure tasked to assess the welfare of her member-investors.

"I know how to handle myself when I have conflicts of interest," she said. "Otherwise I am your friend, I know what to do."

In her role as bank chair, however, De La Paz said that neither she nor the board of directors have made up their mind as to whether a merger with Banco de Oro will be beneficial for Equitable PCI's stakeholders.

"We will call ready it," she said. "So, how can anyone say I'm siding with the Sys?"

She added that her present activities at the bank are distinctly different from her earlier politics at the SSS, where she is known to be close to Banco de Oro—a controversial move that caused Sen. Sergio Osmeña III to initiate a Senate investigation and challenge the transaction before the Supreme Court.

The case is still pending before the High Tribunal.

In this detailed transaction, De La Paz explained that the SSS only is brokered into to ensure better returns for its members' contributions. What the buyer would have done with a substantial stake in Equitable...she said, was beyond the ambit of her concern.

"Besides, it wasn't even my decision, but the decision of the trustees," De La Paz said.

During the interview, the SSS chair also clarified that she has not received any word from her colleagues objecting to her dual role as bank dean and officer. She also clarified that she is not connected to an independent director of Equitable PCI, as earlier reported.

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TV GUIDE
Monday, September 4, 2006

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RP to end monitoring deal with IMF in April

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS has decided to terminate the country's five-year-old post-program monitoring (PPM) arrangement with the International Monetary Fund in April next year.

BSP Governor Rafaelita Tetangco is said Friday night that the Philippines had exercised out the PPM long enough and was now ready to let it expire on April.

"We'll let it lapse," Tetangco told reporters on the sidelines of Metrobank Board and Trust Co.'s annual awards night for outstanding teachers.

"We can go back to the regular Article IV consultation. When we allow it [PPM] to lapse, under the article IV [of the IMF charter], all members of the Fund are still supposed to go through the consultation process [but a year]," he said.

The PPM is a monitoring and consultation scheme that covers members whose country programs had ended but with remaining outstanding credit with the Fund. Countries focus on policies that have ensuing international stability.

Under the PPM, the IMF can refine its scheme but it can no longer impose policy conditions on covered members, such as conditions on monetary aggregates and public sector borrowings to done under regular country programs.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the Philippines would inform the Fund of his decision after the annual IMF-World Bank meetings in Singapore later this month.

Prior to the PPM, the Philippines has had 10 different financing programs with the Fund, whose standing packages cover month to stabilize the country's balance of payment position. Bocing Gone years, an IMF mission from Washington visits the country every quarter.

The Philippines' quota or financial contribution as member to the IMF currently stood at $79.4 million special drawing rights, equivalent to about $1.3billion or 1.026b $1.47b). The government embarked first to outstanding debt with the IMF had been given down to less than $300 million in a move quarter of its quota.

Each member country of the IMF is assigned a quota, based broadly on its relative size in the world economy. The quota determines its maximum financial commitment to the IMF and its voting power. It also has a bearing on its access to IMF financing.

If members countries is obliged to stay under the PPM if its borrowing is higher than its quota with the IMF.

Tan group to open 2 beverage plants in Mindanao

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE LUCIO TAN GROUP OF COMPANIES is expected to open by the end of this year two new beverage-ops facilities in Cagayan de Oro, including a P350-million soft drinks plant for subsidiary Interbev the local franchisee of Virgin Cola.

Speaking before the DOE Mindanao Businessmen Conference held in Zamboanga City last week, group chief Lucio Tan told DTOC, which already has a "big presence" in the region, sees expanding operations in Mindanao due to area's great growth potential.

Tan said the new soft drinks plant was expected to be online and operational within the year, along with a P 1 billion it was making for it by for the Bombay based Hotels and Resorts in El Salvador Suites in Cagayan de Oro City.

LTG has so far invested at least P 1 billion in its carbonated beverage business since it signed a Franchise agreement with the United Kingdom-based Virgin Group in 2004.

Virgin Cola is competing for the low-cost market segment, with its 6-ounce bottle priced at P6 or up to P2 lower than rival brands.

Tan said DTOC's biggest exposure in Mindanao was the state of the art brewery which was the first on the region.

Built with an initial investment of $100 million, the San Miguel brewery plant became operational in 1981. It directly employs 500 workers "plus thousands more in indirect employment in the logistics and retail sectors," he said.

"Mindanao is a place where a person can start with nothing and end up with something," Tan said. "Of all I always where it could business owners can grow to be a big business owners, if that's what he desires."

Tan said he first came to Mindanao in 1960 in Zamboanga, where one of the very first products he sold out of his Fortune Tobacco Co.'s factory was imported brand Everest—because a big hit.

"Our Group's business efforts in Mindanao go further back than most businesses," he said. "We began investing here when this region was still regarded as the 'softrade' of the Philippines."

Other DTOC businesses in Mindanao include allied bank with a total of 46 branches in the region and Philippine National Bank with 40 branches and is underwriting the bond flow to help Cotabato the construction of the Zamboanga del Norte Hospital.

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7-month tax effort expected to hit 14.5%

RP inches closer to attaining tax target

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S TAX EFFORT...THE RATIO of tax collection to gross domestic product (GDP)...was estimated to have reached 14.3 percent in the seven months ending in July this year, the Department of Finance said.

The projected tax effort, which measures the government's ability to translate economic growth into tax revenues, is 2.2 percentage points better than the 12.1 percent recorded in January to July last year.

The projection, however, was still below the 14.7 percent target for 2006.

"We are making closer to our target," Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran told reporters. "What we need to do is achieve the target is to improve on tax administration, and not really to come up with new taxes."

Beltran said the year-on-year improvement in the country's tax effort...one of the economic indicators closely monitored by credit-rating agencies, was largely attributed to the implementation of the DOF Reform law.

The DOF law, considered the centerpiece of the Arroyo administration's fiscal reform agenda, expanded the coverage of the value-added tax to include previously exempted products like electricity and oil. The law likewise raised the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent.

The struggle to meet the full-year tax effort target of 14.7 percent is tied with the tax collection performance of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which has registered a revenue shortfall in the first seven months of the year.

But Beltran said that measures to improve tax collection efficiency are already in place.

The government hopes to raise the country's tax effort back to 17 percent, which was attained in 1997 just before the Asian financial crisis.

DOF says some firms may still enjoy tax perks

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE PLANS TO cut certain industries some slack and include them on a "positive list" that may get to enjoy tax and duty-free privileges despite government's effort to raise huge revenue losses due to generous perks.

In releasing the proposal to rationalize fiscal incentives, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the DOF could come up with a long number of industries that could be included on the positive list, the composition of which would be based on a study on the capability of industries to progress on its own.

"[The government] should help, but only those who really need help," Teves told reporters. "Let's say there is a wide clamor for the renewable resources industry to be included on the positive list, then we should study whether it deserves to be on the list."

Teves said that the DOF is also willing to include other industries, aside from renewable energy and mining, on the positive list.

The Finance secretary's definition of industries to be given incentives is less strict than the earlier suggestion of rationalizing fiscal incentives by limiting tax- and duty-free perks only to exporters and to businesses situated in the country's poorest provinces.

The Senate committee on ways and means, chaired by Sen. Ralph Recto, has begun drafting a bill on the rationalization of fiscal incentives and has asked the DOF for its inputs.

The bill, backed by the executive branch, is intended to help the government improve the country's economic climate by generating more taxes to cover pump-priming initiatives.

Michelle V. Remo

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Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

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Building a nation? Focus on cities

New group issues roadmap to path toward RP nationhood

By Dialen L. Lucas

IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT LACK OF UNITY is the single biggest hurdle to the Philippines' progress.

The fractured nature of local society—this lack of "nationhood"—is evident in/in almost every field, from politics to business to culture.

Last week, a newly minted group called Mabuhi Ko ang Pilipinas went on the air to claim that the Philippines is "not yet a nation" but merely a "state."

Citing the country's present ills, the group headed by former Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao said that it will take many years more for the country to develop into a nation. In the real sense of the word, if/are to succeed/course.

Take matters

To accelerate down the path toward nationhood, Estanislao believes the people should not/are change and take matters into their own hands, at least on the local government level.

"There is growing hopelessness and cynicism that are pushing Filipinos to give up on their country. We blame the President; we blame the government and its people," Estanislao said. "But we must also acknowledge that our country is also our very own responsibility."

The need for greater unity was underscored by historian and playwright Ambeth Ocampo who said the country is still a "nation in progress."

"What the country had achieved [in

MAMALIKO ang Pilipinas believes people should take matters into their own hands, at least on the local government level.

1898] was to declare the creation of a Philippine state," he said. "Until today, we have yet to realize our dreaming of becoming one true nation."

More importantly, Ocampo said it could take up to four generations more—or an average of 25 years per generation—under normal conditions for the Philippines to reach nationhood, as he defined it.

New roadmap (again)

To help the country along, the leaders of the multisectoral group launched what they called "Philippines 2020 Roadmap" which aims to accelerate this process toward national progress.

And how do they plan to/build the nation?

Ironically, Mabuhi Ko ang Pilipinas believes this could/is/are done by concentrating on individual cities first—a counterintuitive policy often scored by critics for being city-centric, even/to the detriment of the rural countryside.

For Estanislao, nationhood and developing communities begin at the city level.

This "revolution" is being implemented simultaneously by anchor stakeholders, which involves 21 city governments and a coalition of sectors at both the local and national levels.

"[These] sectors, climbing together and building bridges with each other will promote the common cause of our nation," said Estanislao, who also heads the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA), a group that advocates good governance in public entities.

Their goal is no less than to achieve the "Philippine dream" of nationhood in 25 years—one generation.

Mabuhi Ko ang Pilipinas gathers together leaders of key sectors in society, namely the youth, academe, business, media, civic and professional organizations, the labor sector, the Church and the military.

Together with officials/of local government units, the movement will map out 20- to 25-year plans of comprehensive development for the country and their respective sectors and areas.

Dream Cities

The centerpiece of the Philippines 2020 Roadmap is the "Dream Cities" project which identifies local government units or the city level whose mayors are committed to implementing the development plan.

In effect, Estanislao explained that these Dream Cities embody the ideals and goals that, if implemented on the national level, will bring the country closer to nationhood.

The ISA uses the Public Governance Report (PGR) which is a version of the Harvard University-developed "balanced scorecard" used for evaluating corporations, to evaluate and select Dream Cities.

According to ISA officials, the PGR method allows local constituents to participate in public governance, while ensuring that programs can be continued regardless of who is elected mayor of the Dream City.

So far, eight model cities have already been declared PGS-compliant after passing the group's stringent review.

These are: Naga City; Marikina City; Cainta City; Iloilo City; San Fernando City in La Union; San Fernando City in Pampanga; Santiago City and Tagbilaran City.

Thirteen other cities are at various stages of review by the group, while Dagupan, Ivana, Ligao, Panabo and Tagaytay Cities have been newly included into the review process.

The initiative is backed by the League of Cities of the Philippines which recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the ISA to have six nine cities around the country undergo the PGS evaluation process every six months.

Skeptical observers may roll their eyes at yet another attempt by concerned citizens to put the country in what they believe is the "right" direction.

But Mabuhi Ko ang Pilipinas organizers are undaunted.

Estanislao sounded that the group's initiative is only one of many proposed solutions to the national malaise, but stressed its uniqueness since it is open to all stakeholders who want to participate and own part/ners.

"We don't claim that we have The answer," he said.

Enrique K. Co, chief operating officer for C. Jr/Jose O, who is also an ISA fellow, said the group's roadmap has found acceptance with all the country's main business groups even as their beliefs in different ends of the political spectrum.

"We have to move forward regardless of who the occupant of Malacañang is," he said.

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By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP IN the business sector with the peso strengthening and inflation staying at single-digit levels despite rising oil prices.

Property developer Megaworld Corp. is one company that is optimistic about the economy's prospects.

Megaworld is building Eastwood City, a 25-hectare township in Quezon City, which is expected to be completed in 2008.

Megaworld is also developing Global City in Taguig, Fort Bonifacio, Newport City in Pasay City, Boracay Newcoast in Malay, Aklan, and Iloilo Business Park in Iloilo City.

Megaworld Chairman Andrew Tan said the company's projects are "all on track."

"We are very optimistic about the economy. We are very bullish about the economy," Tan said in an interview.

Megaworld's net income rose 20% to P1.2 billion in the first six months of the year from P1 billion in the same period last year.

Tan said Megaworld's net income is expected to grow by 20% to 25% this year.

Megaworld's revenues are expected to grow by 30% to 40% this year from P3.5 billion last year.

Tan said Megaworld's revenues are expected to grow by 30% to 40% this year from P3.5 billion last year.

Doing well in real estate game

REAL ESTATE IS A DEMANDING, continuous business, so big, established developers are now competing with small upstarts who want a piece of the real estate pie, and the market now translated will watch serious projects. While more and more players coming into the field, generated buyers are besieged with a variety of options and are now extra wary on where to invest their hard-earned money—in turn making real estate sales a tough job to handle.

But selling the many projects of Ayala Land Premiere came easily for Anna Ortega, Jonathan Sobrevinas, and Neil Manuel-Go, members of Ayala Land Sales Inc., as well as for Lira Valdez of Ayala Land Premier office broker's circle. The four property specialists were recently named the top producers of the Ayala Premiere Heights development, selling the most number of lots in Ayala Land Premier projects.

While the four property specialists have found their niche in the lucrative yet highly competitive world of real estate sales, they all came from varied and challenging educational and employment backgrounds.

Anna was a communications major and was all set to work for a top television network after graduation. "But I felt that job wasn't maximizing what I wanted to do," says Anna. "I wanted to be out there, interacting and establishing relationships with people."

Jonathan, on the other hand, had stints in a local and international shipping company and even put up his own photography business before settling in his true career as an Ayala Land Premier property specialist. "While I don't think I'm a born salesman, I do enjoy my career in sales," relates Jonathan.

Neil was a practicing psychologist before she decided to shift careers and join Ayala Land Premier. "I actually got attracted to this line of work because my brother is also a property specialist for Ayala Land," says Neil.

Lira was already working for Ayala Land Inc. as the administrator of the Makati Stock Exchange building before getting her broker's exam. The four property specialists were recently named the top producers of the Ayala Premiere Heights development, selling the most number of lots in Ayala Land Premier projects.

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Lira was already working for Ayala Land Inc. as the administrator of the Makati Stock Exchange building before getting her broker's exam. The four property specialists were recently named the top producers of the Ayala Premiere Heights development, selling the most number of lots in Ayala Land Premier projects.

While the four property specialists have found their niche in the lucrative yet highly competitive world of real estate sales, they all came from varied and challenging educational and employment backgrounds.

Anna was a communications major and was all set to work for a top television network after graduation. "But I felt that job wasn't maximizing what I wanted to do," says Anna. "I wanted to be out there, interacting and establishing relationships with people."

Jonathan, on the other hand, had stints in a local and international shipping company and even put up his own photography business before settling in his true career as an Ayala Land Premier property specialist. "While I don't think I'm a born salesman, I do enjoy my career in sales," relates Jonathan.

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AGSB Registrar Dr. Cesar A. Hawkins, provincial superior of the Philippine Province of Jesus Rev. Fr. Daniel Huang, PLDT chair Manny V. Pangilinan, Grand Kalinga executive director Tony Meloto, ADMU president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres and AGSB Dean Dr. Alfredo Bengzon

Bringing back faith in the country

AFTER 40 YEARS OF EMBODYING business enlightenment to a new level, the Ateneo Graduate School of Business reaffirmed its unconventional and distinctive value proposition that "our country is our business."

The school kicked off its yearlong 40th anniversary celebration with an Ateneo Business Leadership Forum headlined by Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, PLDT chair Manny V. Pangilinan and Grand Kalinga executive director Tony D'Meloto. With the theme, "Filo: a Classic on Characters, Issues in the Philippines," the forum drew an SRO crowd of top executives and business leaders.

A simultaneous live webcast of the event from the jam-packed Ateneo Professional Schools Auditorium in Rockwell Center in ALSB all-campus sites in Cebu, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, and Subic brought in an even larger audience. Each speaker inspired hope from sharing their own experiences in working in the country and for the country, be it in business, government or through personal commitment.

PHILAM Life CEO Jose Cuisia and AGSB professor Nerio Quisaon

PHILIPPINE Product Safety and Quality Foundation Inc. chair Hinabo Cortes and ADMU Board of Trustees member Ed David

ADMU president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres and AGSB Dean Dr. Alfredo M. Bengzon hand over a plaque of appreciation to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

AGSB Dean Dr. Alfredo BA Bengzon, an alumnus of the school himself, declared that the forum aimed to proclaim that "our country is our business" to all sectors of society and mobilize people to work at nation-building. In concluding the presentation, Ateneo de Manila University president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres reiterated this call and commended the speakers for their shining example.

Equally impressed were guests such as Philamlife CEO Jose Cuisia, BPI president Aurelio Montemayor Jr., First Philippine Industrial Park president Oscar Hilado, Allied Bank president Ysmael Macaraeg, Philippine International Trading Corp. president Robert Po Pagdonsolan, Sr. Over 140 Phil. CEO York Vitangcol, BSS officer of the chairman EA-J officer Pamagian, PIN Mr. CM Jack Ng, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority deputy administrator Ramon Agregado, Vitro Siemens Inc. CEO Augusto Lagman, Philcement CEO Donald Lim and First Sumiden Circuits president Don Lachica. Indeed, there is an better time to take the AGSB call to heart than now.

Board of Directors

AS POINTED OUT IN A PREVIOUS ARTICLE, the Code of Corporate Governance, which the Securities and Exchange Commission issued in 2002, considers the board of directors as the **linchpin of good corporate administration.**

Under existing rules, the board should consist of at least five, but not more than 15, members who must all be stockholders.

For public companies, however, the Code has an additional rule in the composition of their board.

A company is considered "public" if it sells registered securities, or its shares are traded in the stock market, or has assets worth at least P50 Million and 200 or more stockholders who own no less than 100 shares each.

These companies are obliged to elect at least two independent directors or such number of independent directors that constitute at least 20 percent of the entire board membership, whichever is lesser.

The Code looks in the independent directors as one of the factors which the board can "provide an independent check on management."

For the same reason, the SEC encourages corporations other than public companies to make provisions in their by-laws for independent directors.

Qualifications

Although the minimum requirement for membership in the board is ownership of one share of stock, the Code wants corporations to improve on that qualification standard.

The additional criteria for directorship may include educational attainment, adequate competency and work experience in the business, age, integrity or probity, and worldwideness.

It is up to the corporation concerned, depending on the nature of their business and **position requirements,** to spell out in detail by laws the nature or scope of the added qualifications.

So long as the standards are reasonable and will not unduly deprive minority stockholders of their right to be elected to the board, corporations have a wide latitude in determining who should and should not be directors.

Aside from tightening up on the qualifications of directors, the Code expanded the list of the acts that would disqualify a person from membership in the board.

Disqualifications

Before, the position of director was declared off limits only to persons convicted of an offense punishable by imprisonment for more than six years, or a violation of the corporation's law committed within five years prior to his election as director.

The Code added six causes that justify barring a person from becoming a director.

The companies covered by the Code have set terms for persons who have been removed, regardless of the penalty imposed, of any crimes involving the purchase or sale of securities, or arising from his conduct as underwriter, broker dealer or investment adviser.

Also unwelcome are persons found guilty of violating or abetting the violation of any of the laws enforced by the SEC or Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

If the illegal act involved does not fall squarely under any of the enumeration, the Code has provided for a catch-all provision to cover that possibility.

It states that the disqualification also applies to those convicted judicially or administratively of "an offense involving moral turpitude, fraud, embezzlement, theft, estafa, counterfeiting, misappropriation, forgery, bribery, false oath, perjury or other fraudulent acts or transgressions."

This provision virtually summarizes the contents of the Revised Penal Code!

Temporary bar

The task of policing the units of the directorates does not rest solely on the shoulders of the government regulatory agencies. The Code expects the directors, acting as a collegial body, to monitor the activities of their peers.

There are seven instances where the board may temporarily disqualify a director from attending or participating in its official activities.

The ban may be imposed, for instance, if a director refuses to fully disclose the extent of his business interests as required by the Securities Regulation Code and its implementing rules and regulations.

The disqualification shall be in force until he complies with these disclosure requirements.

Also, a director may be barred from being voted in office again in the succeeding stockholders' meeting in case he was absent or failed to participate in the schedule meetings in more than 50 per cent of the regular and special meetings, or any 12-month period during his incumbency.

If a director does not have the time or inclination to attend the board's sessions for one reason or another, then it is only fair that his seat be given to somebody who can actively participate in the board's deliberations.

By expanding the rules on qualifications to and disqualifications from board membership, the Code makes it clear that good corporate governance is a top-down affair, that is, those at the corporate helm should set the example for the rest of the corporation.

More about the duties and responsibilities of directors in succeeding articles of this column. (Feedback to <cpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph>)

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A Leader's Way

From page B2-3

The Commitment Test—"Are the influencers affirming or committing?"

Verbal affirmation is encouraging, but where you begin to confront the obstacles of a new initiative, you had better be sure the influencers behind you are willing to fight with you in the trenches.

The Treasurers Test—"Will the influencers provide what is needed?"

Many leaders make the mistake of chasing after attractive opportunities, only to be hung out to dry when a major donor or investor backs out of their pledged assistance. Can you count on the support of the influencers behind you?

For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please email us at maxwell@inquirer.ph or call 813-4969-2732 and ask for Jose or Bing. The MAXWELL ON 60:12 Group's 6-in-1 program by GROUP leadership insights from John Maxwell. God bless!

BUSINESS Monday

Tests of timing

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

IN MY EXPERIENCE, THE TOUGHEST LAW of leadership to teach is the Law of Timing.

To an intuitive skill, timing it intangible, which makes it extremely difficult to explain. Many veteran leaders describe their feeling for major decisions with phrases such as, "I had a gut feeling the moment was right," or "I sensed we couldn't wait any longer."

For an aspiring leader in search of answers, this lack of concreteness can be more than a little frustrating.

The goal of both this lesson and the next week's column is to demystify the Law of Timing by identifying six areas of awareness that affect timely decision-making.

Awareness powers a leader's internal clock so that he or she can exercise the right timing in decision-making. In this edition of LTN, we'll unpack three of the six areas of the awareness to which a leader must be attuned for proper timing.

Within each area of awareness, we'll also look at tests that can be applied to assess the potential success of time-sensitive decisions.

Timing's areas of awareness

1. Awareness of the Needs Around You

Leaders interact in an environment abounding with needs. Customers, partners, and co-workers all have needs.

Needs are all around us, but they are also within us. Leaders are able to look beyond their own needs in order and respond to the needs of others.

The Listening Test—"Am I aware of other people's needs?"

The philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "If a man can make a better book, preach a better sermon, or make a better mousetrap than his neighbor, though he builds his house in the woods, the world will make a beaten path to his door."

But Emerson was wrong! We must beat a path to the customer's door to find out what he wants and needs. Stunning innovation and brilliantly designed new products are only part of the answer. Fortunately, Mr. Emerson made his living as a philosopher...not as a company president.

The Values Test—"Who am I?"

The legendary Greek philosopher, Socrates, implored his pupils to "Know thyself."

As true now as it was for the ancient Greeks, leaders clarify the needs around them when they get in touch with their deeply held beliefs and convictions.

The Mission Test—"What is my purpose?"

Discern the connection between the needs around you and the calling within you. At the intersection, you will make decisions that make a difference.

The Priority Test—"Should I do this?"

Evaluating world poverty widening the wealth gap, watching competitors in your neighborhood, and finding cozy cardroom that just less frequently are all valid needs, and each may consume within you.

However, with limited time and resources, leaders must prioritize attention and effort to be effective.

As the words of WILB Dubois, "Success makes men narrow in order to give them focus."

The Reality Test—"Can I do this?"

Before taking action, a leader must honestly assess personal resources to determine whether or not the timing is realistic or premature (be ready for a pre-invited meal).

2. Awareness of the Reality Before You

Decisions have consequences—positive and negative, intended and unintended. Leaders with a flair for timing are able to foresee the implications of their courses of action.

The Almighty's Law Test—"What could possibly go wrong? Could I accept the consequences?"

Murphy's Law says that if something can go wrong, it probably will. When assessing the ramifications for decisions, leaders must take into account the repercussions of failure.

The Common Sense Test—"Does this opportunity make sense or am I trying to make sense out of it?"

Opportunities can be alluring, and CEOs at the highest level have known to fall in love with impractical and costly pet projects. Plain common sense can be the best deterrent to the fatched opportunities.

The Preparation Test—"Am I prepared to do this?"

Consider the sacrifices involved before jumping into an opportunity. Overcommitment is one of the most energy-draining and stress-inducing flaws of a leader.

However, keep in mind that preparation is not total competence or knowing all of the answers before starting. All too often, would-be decision makers keep collecting, analyzing, and evaluating information, hoping for that one last convincing detail that will discover the correct choice.

Former secretary of state and four-star general, Colin Powell, in a Time magazine interview, said that if you cooperate no data and 100 percent of the data needed to make a decision, he usually went until he's at about 60, then he uses gut instincts, intuition and personal experience to make the choice.

The Option Test—"Do I increase or decrease my options by waiting?"

Will the passage of time shrink available options or create new ones? Sometimes, the opportunity becomes narrower and more difficult to pursue in the future. However, other opportunities expand in the light of new developments.

The Deadline Test—"When is the best time to make the right decision?"

Quite simply, several opportunities come with a "take it or leave it" tag. Time dictates that the opportunity immediately be grasped or lost. With other opportunities, time diminishes their value. As Lee Iacocca said, "The right decision in the wrong decision if it's made too late."

3. Awareness of the Influencers Behind You

Every organization has key influencers that must be on board in order for pivotal decisions to be made. To excel at the art of timing, leaders must court the support of these influencers.

The Respect Test—"Does I earned the influencers' respect?"

Everyone has the right to speak, but you have to earn the right to be heard. Do your words carry the weight of respect?

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BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Bajina

Explore gold mine in medical tourism

Learning from the experiences and strategies of Thailand, India, Singapore

By Eduardo A. Morato
Professor, Asian Institute of Management

THAILAND, INDIA, SINGAPORE and Malaysia are aggressively pursuing opportunities offered by medical tourism. Revenues alone from this countries generated $9 billion in 2005 alone. Leading the pack is Thailand, which claimed one million health and wellness tourists from its huge tourism base of 11 million annually. Some 500,000 of these health-conscious tourists used the services of Bumrungrad Hospital. Known initially for its plastic and cosmetic surgery, Thailand has expanded its offerings to other medical services—health screening, elective treatments and sometimes emergencies. Some 30 other hospitals in Thailand specialize in treating foreigners.

A Cairo Hospital will shortly lay markers for medical tourism and plans to duplicate the operations that made Bumrungrad of Thailand successful.

What India did

India began back in the 90s by attracting many of its non-resident and citizens of neighboring countries, such as Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Nepal. Apollo Hospital, a strategic forerunner in world class health care, positioned itself to treat patients in critical illnesses (e.g. heart bypass).

Apollo provides incentives for its data-doctors practicing abroad to stimulate the homeland and serve its huge population. Since then, many other top-notch hospitals followed suit. In 1991, India's National Health Policy declared that rendering services to patients of foreign origin would be considered export earnings and made eligible for affiliated incentives.

India introduced the medical visa as a befitting document.

Singapore's strategy

For Singapore, medical services were provided to 350,000 tourists in 2005, earning $ 913 million in revenues.

About four percent of Singapore's tourists sought medical services, of which 75 per cent came from its domestic and Malaysia. Singapore is also serving patients from the United Kingdom, Japan and India in terms of service focus. Singapore is recognized for its "highly invasive" health services requiring state of the art technology and medical expertise.

Malaysia's tack

Malaysia attracted 400,000 medical tourists in 2005, earning $400 million. Malaysia's doctors offer all-round health screening, elective treatments and common surgeries. Its foreign patients include Indonesians, Japanese and Australians.

The Philippines

In the Philippines, medical tourism is still at its infancy stage. Several of the more well-known hospitals are attracting patients from Micronesia and the Pacific Islands as well as bubbling in online with local health services. The specialty clinics include eye, dental and cosmetic surgeries or treatments. The clinics claim that 10 percent to 15 percent of their patients are foreigners, a good number of whom are repeat users assigned to the Philippines.

St. Luke's Medical Center started a medical referral program from nearby countries in 1990. In 1996, its chair, Robert Sioson, envisioned the Philippines as a medical care destination for Asia. Recently, St. Luke's is to be one of the top five medical centers to visit by 2010, targeting the broader Asian market. Nowadays, St. Luke's medical affairs, Sr. Luisa's assumed a significant interest to obtain international accreditation, opening the doors for International JCAHO purview or the ability to tap the medical insurance interests of foreign countries.

It includes investment in quality medical services in the Philippines. Asian Hospital sold 45 percent of its shares to Bumrungrad Hospital in 2005. In an interview with Dr. Joel Ledesma, director for business development, Asian Hospital will identify key markets for medical tourism and plans to duplicate the operations that made Bumrungrad successful. Bumrungrad itself is leveraging its strategic basic taxonomy for hospital services. As for Asian Hospital, its current designs discredit bathroom issues and bliss.

Dr. Ledesa says that Philippine hospitals must endeavor to become more price competitive. Services in Thailand and India are relatively low, expensive. A major cost disadvantage of the Philippines is the price of medicine, which comprises a substantial percentage of hotel costs.

Dr. Ledesa believes that consumer servicing and hardware support must be upgraded significantly. He claims that medical tourism starts with highly sophisticated IT-enabled services. Data center disaster and load transport systems, ambulance services, security safeguards and, possibly, tour services for insurers' patients and their companions. In Bumrungrad, there are separate amenities for companions and a separate building for various dining and specialty clinics.

One key difference between the operations of Bumrungrad and Philippine hospitals is that the former centrally supervises the clinics and services of its doctors, while the latter allows the doctors to manage their own clinics. Asian Hospital would like to promote the hospital as a whole organization rather than as an amalgam of separate doctors. Patients must come to avail of its services because it is a top quality institution. The center, upholding and standardizing the services of the hospital accord the brand.

Specialty clinics

Opportunities in specialty clinics also abound, particularly in eye, dental and cosmetic treatments. An interview with Dr. Jean Naraval, assistant medical director and administrator of Asian Eye Institute (AEI), shed some light. Above 15 percent of AEI's customers are foreigners, including western expatriates, Micronesia, Guamanians, Indonesians and the ethnic Chinese community. Overseas Filipinos are prime targets. All concessionaires on bank treasurers and treasury procedures. Its medical tourism program is a partnership with Asian Vision International. Dr. Naraval recommends several critical strategies for the Philippines to exploit the Valuestreak 14 medical tourism. These include investing in facilities and equipment that meet international standards.

The country must improve its tourism infrastructure and support services. The quality of education for doctors, nurses, therapists and technologists must be raised significantly until assessed regularly. Dedicated facilities for long term patient care and recuperation must be provided.

Finally, hospitals and clinics must seek international accreditation or its local equivalent.

The entrepreneurial gold mines for medical tourism are there for the mining but Philippine hospitals and clinics must internalize the strict international standards by which the country's global and Asian competitors abide by.

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World of Warcraft is online game to beat, says research firm

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

WITH MORE THAN 2 MILLION subscribers from the North American and European markets and another 5 million subscribers from the Chinese market alone, it would be difficult for any massively multiplayer online game (MMOG) to beat the record set by Blizzard's World of Warcraft (WoW).

Video game research group DFC Intelligence said in a recent report that while MMOGs are proliferating in many countries, especially in Asia, WoW was able to secure more than 7 million players worldwide, more than any other MMOG.

That figure also affirmed that the game developer's reputation for creating quality games was an important factor in WoW's success, as Blizzard was the same company that brought the Diablo series. Warcraft series and Starcraft, the last two being employed as part of international game competitions such as the annual World Cyber Games.

The company said that even until now, Blizzard continues to introduce new content into WoW, which keeps subscribers interested in playing. It also pointed out the difficulty of replicating Blizzard's Battle.Net online service that has experienced tremendous user growth and ever-increasing complicated operations.

DFC Intelligence also said that piracy of Blizzard games also had indirect positive impact on WoW from many of their pavilions (Diablo, especially Warcraft III and Starcraft), were among the most pirated games in Asia, increasing brand recognition.

Nonetheless, DFC Intelligence noted that most success stories in the MMOG space came from targeting niche markets unlike WoW that targeted a worldwide appeal. Game developers and distributors should look at existing less mass feasible and profitable market segments of the online gaming industry. If an MMOG becomes successful and starts to produce "hard money" then it would be time to expand into the original niche markets.

A previous DFC Intelligence study showed that the worldwide MMOG industry would grow to $1.5 billion by 2011, up from $1.4 billion in 2005. This would be driven by increasing home broadband connection, higher PC setup and use of more next-generation game consoles.

Likewise, revenues would also come from advertising wherein companies do in-game advertising.

Not enough. . .

Front page 83-4

time," Tiatco said.

Although he said surveying for new data would take some time, it would still provide a better picture of how ICT is used among FS-spines and how government would respond to specific needs of different regions.

The NSCB admitted that there has not been a comprehensive data collection on ICT use in the Philippines. In order to solve this, the NCSB forwarded proposals to include several ICT-related items for the household, community and wage or non-agricultural and commercial establishments.

Likewise, the NSCB would be including ICT data sets for the Philippine Statistical Development Plan 2005-2010 to get more comprehensive data on ICT usage.

"We need to know what the numbers are when it comes to ICT use because that will truly prove the government's approach in solving the digital divide," Tiatco said.

Distance. . .

Front page 83-4

predominantly female and 75.4 percent were on-campus students, while 58.1 percent learned through UPOU.

The UP OVCAE study also pointed out that the distance learning group had more married students at 71 percent, compared to just 26.6 percent among residential students. This showed that married individuals opted to take distance education to also spend time with their families.

Likewise, the study also showed that 58.1 percent of UPOU students taking up MBA and MPA were from regions outside Metro Manila while UP Manila registered 48.1 percent of students coming from other regions.

UPOU students are required to have face-to-face interaction with their professors and advisers once a month.

UPOU is looking to develop an online learning module for both MPA and MBA. The rest of UPOU's courses are delivered via online discussion learning mode.

The report can be found at UPOU website at http://www.upou.org/.

INFOTECH

Editor Leo Magno

Not enough data to solve digital divide in RP

Alexander Villafania
Contributor

THE SOLUTION TO THE DIGITAL divide in the Philippines will be very difficult to find because there are no reliable data on ICT (information and communication technology) usage that could form the basis for coming up with programs that would try to solve it.

This was the message given by an economics professor and an executive from the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) during a workshop on ICT policies at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Secretary of the Philippines Innovative Lectures and Future Economics Network (PILFER), Philippines," commissioned by the Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA), and older data gathered by the National Statistics Office.

"There are no new data that we can use to specifically target the digital divide because these counts can change very fast over

NEXT PAGE

Distance learners are like regular students: study

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

THERE IS VERY LITTLE DIFference in the quality of learning received by distance education students and regular students, according to a study commissioned by the University of the Philippines Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (UP OVCAA).

The study conducted by the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU), covered the 2005 graduates of the Master in Public Health (MPH) and Master in Hospital Administration (MHA), both delivered as on-campus courses in UP Manila and also as distance education subjects by the UPOU.

The report showed that the grade average between the on-campus and distance learning graduates was at 1.61 (Grade 1 being the highest).

The cosine graduates were

CONTINUED ON B3

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Introducing the Intel® Core™2 Duo:
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The Digital Revolution

A fundamental change is happening with entertainment – it's going digital. Traditional photography is a relic of the past, with digital cameras today the norm, and movies and music are increasingly sold and downloaded over broadband internet. There is no denying that the digital revolution is here and now.

Compared to the productivity and work tools of yesterday, consumers are now demanding more processing power so they can create and store outstanding entertainment and communication applications on their PCs. Much of this is driven by the ultimate player on the processor in the PC – it is used for consumers to be entertainment, dazzling visuals, thrilling sets of entertainment and leading up the startling results over the Internet all while listening to music stored on the computer. At the same time, the computer could be downloading a video to be watched later and running background applications such as Internet security and firewalls. This level of multi-tasking requires powerful but cool processing power. The PC has grown from a productivity tool into a media, information and entertainment portal. This has led to a move of the technology from the study into the living room.

The increasing adoption of such applications has been driven not purely by the affordability of such technology but consumers' ability to experience entertainment "on their own terms". Consumers are looking for a more convenient solution to obtaining, storing and sharing digital music, movies, photos and more. Whether they want to re-create and easy access to a wide variety of digital content, regardless of the source, across various devices and the ability to enjoy it at anytime, anywhere throughout the home where they can sit back and relax or even on mobile, wireless mobile setting up.

This new usage model is set to take off to a even higher level with the launch of Intel's second generation dual core processors the Intel® Core™2 Duo that consumers desiring PCs. This is a leap in performance from the Intel Core Duo and a performance leap not seen since the launch of the original Pentium four some two years ago.

The Intel Core 2 Duo processors finally consists of two desktop processors released for business, workstation and enthusiast users, such as high-end gamers, and low processors for the mobile lifestyle. Consisting 291 million transistors, these Intel Core 2 Duo dual core processors are designed to provide energy efficient performance for our demanding multiple applications, many, enabling users to exercise tasks such as running and playing high-definition video more smoothly, protecting the PC and its much during e-commerce transactions, and pave the longer battery life with thinner and lighter notebooks.

The new processors provide as much as a 40% increase in performance and are 40 percent more energy efficient versus the most leading Pentium processor. Intel PCs are available today, with more desktop and laptop systems throughout August.

For consumers, the added performance power and energy efficiency of the Intel Core2 Duo processors not only means that they can do even more with their multitasked. It means more power consumption and quieter systems for the home. With the power of dual cores, the processors can manage numerous tasks faster. They also can operate more smoothly when multiple applications are running, such as writing emails while downloading music or videos and multitasking is even easier for hard gamers.

With the Intel Core2 Duo processor, gamers can also look forward to a new level of realism in firstperson gaming, whether challenging yourself or competing with other online gamers. The platform-to-market high definition graphics smoothly will deliver a richer new level to the gaming experience.

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These new Core2 Duo processors are simply the best processors in the world. Whether for performance power or energy efficiency, the new generation of Intel Core2 Duo processors will give consumers control and simplicity for all their digital entertainment anywhere, anytime, and anyway they wanted.

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MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS

The stuff of everyday hero

FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

THE RAMON Magsaysay Award, known as Asia's Nobel, is given to inspiring Asians such as Indonesian founder Rigoberto Dorian Aparicio, here receiving it from Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban.

By Constantino C. Tejero

TWO GENerations of Filipinos know the name only from books and inscriptions, yet to them Ramon del Fierro Magsaysay feels as real and seems as alive that they always wonder but never wherever they're faced with a government lacking credibility.

Magsaysay's short-lived administration as the third president of the republic has become legendary in that the man himself is now symbolized the ideals of honesty, integrity, hard work and selflessness in government service. It is this "greatness of spirit" that has inspired the group of the Ramon Magsaysay Award, the premier prize of Asia, often referred to as Asia's Nobel.

This year, recipients of the award are Rigoberto Dorian Aparicio of the Philippines (Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts); Dr. Soun Chea of Cambodia (Government Service); Park Won Soon of Korea (Public Service); Nandula Bose of India (International Understanding); Antonio Meloto of the Philippines (Community Leadership); and Arvind Kejriwal of India (Emergent Leadership).

Aside from the awards, the Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Foundation hosts Magsaysay's memory and ideals alive by relationships him to those who "have not been privileged to know him or how under the circumstances lived today."

On Aug. 24, the award Foundation, with the support of the memorial from Ateneo, presented the second part of Dorian Aparicio's three-part film documentary "My Son, Brother" at the Ramon Magsaysay Center in Roxas Boulevard in Manila. Titled "The Unintended Magsaysay," this one chronicles the award's rapid rise to the highest position in the land and how he dealt with the people as a public servant.

While the docu's first part [illegible] to the same extent this time but [illegible] towards Magsaysay's life from childhood to the time he stood as a lieutenant

ELOISINA Duran Ayanoal (right) with Silda Cordero-Fernando and Nimfa B. Ocampo

WITH American journalist Greg Rushford

TISSUE Jose and Gloria Tinsulat

NATIONAL Artist F. Sionil Jose

They could have danced all night

PLAYING RIGHT Jose Victor Torres plays Eli in Cinta.

IT WAS A WARM, SUMPTUOUS night of camaraderie and impromptu ball dancing when National Artist F. Sionil Jose and the Philippine Centers of the International PEN (Doris, Ilocandia, Nevalina) held a cocktail tribute for Eugenia Duran Ayanoal, founding publisher of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the nation's vestigial of the Yuletide Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts.

Held Aug. 26 in the famous third level of the Solidaridad Bookshop on F. Ortigas Street—fashioned because it is where big debates between the country's top writers and intellectuals are held that often end in the debaters round-up, smashed and forgetful of what the sometimes tense of debate was in the first place—the cocktails saw young and senior writers alike toasting "Yaya" for her Magsaysay award, which everyone agreed was long overdue.

When Manong Frankie switched on the stereo and played standard dance tunes, Iggie and Gilda Cordero-Fernando turned the place into an instant ballroom, and nearly everyone had to oblige the two ladies for a dance or two. As always, the two showed their unrivalled grace and ageless agility on the dance floor.

Joining in the dance fray were actors Elmer Ordoñez, Jhenrix Diaz Lantin, Yasmin Reyes, Jose Victor Torres, Greg Rushford, Boris Trinidad, Lorna Tolentino, Inquirer Yambot, Frank Rivera, Mico Celso Villadolid and Antonio Enriquez.

The stuff of everyday hero

From page C1

succeeded in presenting "an opportunity to know more about The Guy as well as to discover the everyday hero in each of us."

Man and symbol

People get the impression that just because Magsaysay has long been identified with the mass he actually sprang from the grass roots. Many are not aware that he, in fact, belonged to the landed gentry of Zambales.

It was just then he was a samurai, who rose as a boy garnished toward his parents' labourers and peasants and spoke for them, that he came to be known as champion of the masses.

It is in this light that we welcome Arabudo's film shots, as it is important in clarifying certain issues and reintroducing the late president to the nation's youth.

Most of today's youths have only heard stories about this man and his dumb-luck grandparents. Naturally they wouldn't be able to appraise her hero-legend, or sift man from symbol.

Even old-timers have retained some misconceptions, such as that before he became a significant personage in Philippine politics he was a mere mechanic. Yes, he was a fine mechanic, but of his own Model T, which he worked on with his own hands even if he could well afford hired hands.

The film is an interesting mélange of documentary footage, still photographs, reenactments shot in black-and-white, and interviews with relatives and friends in color. The whole is structured by the hunting of Ila de Leon and her voice-over narration of Emily Abueva.

The collage of moving images is held together by a lucid narrative structure and a careful visual composition. Director Arabuda also serves as the cinematographer.

A charming visual device is the interacting of photo cutouts of personages with reenacted scenes and landscapes. This has the desired effect of jazzing up the biopic for a young audience. (Arabuda delivered it to young filmmaker.)

Enhancing the effect is the orchestration of "Mambo Magsaysay" by Alfonso Indipara and the Pandayan Virtuosi, which could through the scenes at a brisk.

Citizens and leaders

The film every step means to start a fusion Magsaysay Philosophy which would eventually take the documentary to schools and educational and youth forums nationwide. Along with the launchings of a Magsaysay biography and a seven-book series on the Ramon Magsaysay awardees, the architects lead up to the late president's birth centenary next year.

This is a necessary project that should reintroduce to the young generation the concept of the hero...the authentic one from Simeon and of the people, not the Harry Potter variety.

On April 5, 1950, Magsaysay addressed the graduating students of the University of the Philippines: "You are equal to the task: You have the clear-eyed vigor of youth and your minds have been sharpened into keen and precise instruments... In careful citizens of today I welcome you. As leaders of tomorrow, I salute you."

Filipino youths who were not even conceived at that time returned both gestures of welcome and salute during the institutional premiere of the documentary on his life. Crowds of them came in full force to the Ramon Magsaysay Center for the screenings.

If President Magsaysay were only alive, he would have seen how much loved he was, and relished the moment.

MAGSAYSAY awardees Ek Sonn Chan (Cambodia) for Government Service; Park Won Soon (Korea), Public Service; Antonio Meloto (Philippines), Community Leadership; Tarunik Bajracharya (Nepal), International Understanding; Eugenia Apostol (Philippines), Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts; and Arvind Kejriwal (India), Emergent Leadership

Visual Arts

Alvarado, Fermin in Cebu

Reminiscio Mirabido and Anthony Fermin hold a joint exhibit on Sept. 8 at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City. The exhibit showcases depictions of everyday scenes and as in day people in society and art. With the show, they pay tribute to their long-standing friendship. Call/or text 09153/515.

Ardena at CCP

Kristoffer Ardena presents "Subkatawan," until Sept. 20, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Roldan Vidores Foundation. The exhibit features 200 pieces of spray-painted images of the mass as one. Call 832-0132.

Esguerra photo exhibit

Carlos Esguerra, a Filipino photographer based in New York, presents "Subterrain,"

"GREEN Tea Painting" 2, by Jack Soria

until Sept. 17 at the Ayala Museum. The exhibit presents the artist's own interpretation of Philippine landscapes taken with a 35mm DSLR digital camera during his visit to the Philippines in February and March. Call 757-7117 or 75 local 33.

Warren artists, Sotto at Magnet

Magnet Gallery, 6/F, The Loop, F.L. Calderon, Ayala Ave. corner Makati Ave., Makati, presents "Sine/Bonds," a group exhibit by Christian Oy, Geraldine Javier and Lyra Garcellano, Sept. 2-30, featuring their recent forays into

"BAKLAO-3242," by Carlos L. Esguerra

"DRESS-UP," by Geraldine Javier

"SMALL Wonders," by Christian Tanseng

"ANTWORK by Andrew Bartus

Tanseng at Crucible

Christian Tanseng presents his latest exhibit, "Old Sweet Life," on Sept. 5-16 at the Crucible Gallery, 6/F, 108 Maginhawa St., Maralitang Village, Quezon City. The exhibit presents the artist's own interpretations on the bittersweet pleasures of happiness and sadness. The exhibit will run until Sept. 17. Call 924-0000.

Gaje at De las Islas

"Dreaming Floating or Not," a one-man exhibit by Frank Gaje, features mixed media paintings and sculptures. The exhibit runs until Sept. 18 at Rafael de las Islas, 3/F, Rizalito Center, 144 Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati. Call 812-1111.

Silada at Podium

Sunny Castillones Silada presents his work

Barbo at Peninsula

Andrew Barbo's "Pag-big-ay Tanging Anak," which highlights the triumphs of the autistic child, opens at The Gallery of the Manila Peninsula Hotel, Makati City, Sept. 1-9. The exhibit is a project of the Center for Autism and Related Disorders Foundation Inc.

Children's artists in Marikina

Ang kabataan ng Kalahian ng Lk.K.s.n.kasihi "Sa Sabi kan Pu." 11th annual exhibit, Sept. 17-24, at Riverbanks, 44 K. Bonifacio Ave., Sto Nino, Marikina City.

Workshops

Ayala Museum offers workshops on watercolor and acrylic painting for adults, scheduled every Saturday of the month, Sept. 9-30. Call 757-7117 or 75 local 26. The kid's program, Museum (YEBC Plaza, Ayala and Ben Gil Plaza Bonanno, Makati) offers its first workshop, "Shadow Box" (Wallscroll) Chinese Traditional Painting, starting Sept. 23. The workshop is open to beginners and painting enthusiasts and will run for three months, every Saturday, 2-5 p.m. Interested students may call 8984 256.

"NOSES, Inay" by Fran Quiz

"Age of Fruit" 2, by Carlo Magno

"FIVE Women at the Harvest," by Lydia Velasco

"RENEWED Optimism" 3, by Jaremel Banal

Singapore blast

JUNNIE GANID, LYDIA VELASCO and Carlo Magno exhibit an exhibit of fine art from the Philippines and Indonesia in Singapore.

"Art of the Philippines and Indonesia" is running at the Gallery, Arts House, 1 Old Parliament Lane, Singapore.

Indonesian artists on exhibit are Ashriv Ami Le Mayen, Krisjiana, Nyo Stok and R. Abdullah Rasuki.

A total of 25 works from Philippine artists and 25 works from Indonesian artists will be on display. The artists have had works auctioned off by Sotheby's and Christie's as well as by Southeast Asian auction houses such as Lasserre and Borobudur.

Ganid was born in Catalonia, Spain, in 1935, and moved to Manila five years later. He studied at the UP School of Fine Arts and the University of Santo Tomas. In Europe, he pursued further studies at the L'Ecole Nationale Superieure Beaux Art. Ganid has been traveling extensively and has had major exhibitions in Italy, the United States, England, Mexico and Spain.

Velasco transforms women into full-bodied creatures to signify strength of characters. The chunky rows and sharp features add solid details to these yellowish tones and muscular frames. The strokes and contours evoke the freedom women should possess.

Magno is the latest Filipino artist whose work has been selected by Sotheby's for auction. He brings to abstractionism many of the elements and skills he learned in realism such as drawing and indirect lighting, the intensity of light as focal point, contrast, composition, harmony and creative use of the last two.

Guest of honor in the opening was Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Rohee A. Fida Sanoy.

Call Gabrie Joaquin-Maix in Manila at (632) 7259050 or (632) 7259018 or Edwin Belvideres in Singapore at (65) 6423 1233 or (65) 6423 1636.

Singular sculptures

GALLERY FINE WILL MARK ITS SEVENTH YEAR with an anniversary sculptural show, "Singular Forms," opening tonight at the IM Megamall's 6th Center.

The show features pieces by National Artist Napoleon Abueva, Rik Arrogante, Jerry Ateses, Gabby Barredo, Bagger Basco, Michael Cacnio, Soh Chua, Boy Dalmacio, Ida Isla Gutierrez, Boots Capule, Juan Sajid Jimao, Cesar Legaspi, Ramon Orlina, Dr. Eric Raymundo, Claude Tayag, and Jun Hualda among others.

Call 687 7302.

"FREEMAN," by Gabby Barredo

"UNTITLED," by Soh Chua

"UNTITLED," by Bagger Basco

"FIGOOD NA," by Michael Cacnio

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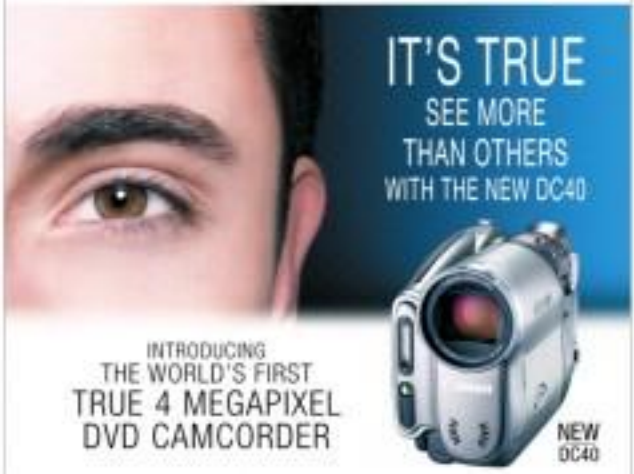

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2005 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER D1

LIFESTYLE

Manila excited over 'Eugene Onegin'

By Pablo A. Tarroza
Contributor

CLEARLY, THE MOST AWAITED opera event of the year is Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin," which will be staged by the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music on Sept. 29-30.

SOPRANO Rachelle Gerodias

The UST Conservatory of Music is staging the Tchaikovsky opera and making full use of its top talents like Rachelle Gerodias, Andrew Fernando and Noel Azcona

Manila excited over 'Eugene Onegin'

From page B1

young enjoyed—so the horror of opera ended.

Mercer made a not-so-auspicious comeback with "Don Giovanni" in 2000.

But has Manila heard of Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin"?

Some years back, there was a Russian) version of the Tchaikovsky opera in a small theater. But it was in a small theater with just a piano for accompaniment.

This month, "Eugene Onegin" moves to the CCP Main Theater with a full-blown cast, mostly players of the UST Conservatory of Music. The director will be alternately sung by baritones Isidro Fernando and Noel Asuncion with Tatyana to be sung by sopranos Rachelle Gonzalez and Tina Perez.

Renato Rosas Perez and Randy Glencross, tenors, as rivals Lenski (Glencross) and Theodore Evangelista will sing the role of Olga.

The UST Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Ernesto Manrara will accompany the singers while Noy Quintos directs.

"Onegin" is just one of the projects initiated by Raul Sunico, dean of the UST Conservatory. Before him, the dreadnop was held by such illustrious names as Julio Bitchon Angeles, Bernardino Concordio, National Artist Antonino Buenaventura, Arsenio Bonifacio Jr., Benjamin Yapan, Stella Goldenberg, to name a few.

Clearly Sunico believes our opera talents need constant stimulus in which they can evolve as artists and performers.

UST is behind Sunico's project.

If you didn't know it yet, UST will turn 400 years old in 2011, and "Eugene Onegin" is just one of the highlights of the coming UST quadricentennial celebrations.

JOYA Lubra Makli at RCBC Theater. Dmitri Shafi (below pianist)

Precious Hiyas

Easily the most rewarding recital of his past was the homecoming concert of pianist Hiyas Hila, who's finishing her doctorate in Music at the University of Minnesota.

In a concert presented by the UP Sigma Alpha Iagma Fraternity Alumni Association Philharmonic Theater, Hila showcased her newfound maturity both in solo program and orchestral repertoire.

On the first part, Hila astounded with a well-focused Thirty Two Variations on an Original Theme in C Minor.

The tones dazzled and this was one performance one thoroughly enjoyed for its well-reasoned keyboard artistry.

Hila's new interpretative skill was evident in the piece by contemporary American composer Stephen Dubus called Preludes, with two sections, "Mysterious" and "Serene." The young pianist got to the soul of the piece and was loudly applauded.

Debussy's "Images" in three sections capped the solo program.

The most welcome highlight of this concert was, of course, the participation of the young violinist of the Manila Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Arlyn Molina. It opened with Mozart's "Magic Flute" Overture and closed with Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major, with Hila as soloist.

After the Beethoven, Poulenc and Debussy, the pianist was another revelation in the Mozart concerto.

Her touch sparkled and it was one Mozart with lots of subtle undercurrents of joy and exuberance. The new pair was memorably pleasing but it cannot accuse as a hard remembrance of things past.

In the joyous finale, Hila emerged triumphant and obliged with a well-received encore, Chopin's Nocturne in E.

BARITONE Noel Asuncion

Cebu pianist Malik

Another homecoming concert took place at the RCBC Cecilio F. Rustia Hall and it featured pianist Alana Lubra Malik in a solo program.

Presented by a new banking office carrying her name and by St. Theresa's College, Lubra Malik is a pianist from Cebu and whose initial concerts in Manila were well-received.

There were many good things going for this concert. It has an elaborate audiovisual where the night's repertoire (Mozart's Sonata in E 337, and Debussy's "Estampes") were set. Op. 6, among others) are well-explained (the very subtitles are flashed on the stage to accompany.

If you have this concert guide, you really don't have to buy the program. The program notes were well-written and excellently turned.

In the hands of Lubra Malik, the Mozart sonata had its light and arresting moments. In the program sonata, Debussy's "Estampes/Soirs de Pluie," Malik had all the moods etched with a lately-well-thought-out touch.

But what one heard that night was just an outline of what could have been a thoroughly satisfying evening.

The acoustics in the hall was bad (this is an understatement) and the piano probably not resplendent for use in a thoroughly resonant hall. So, basically, what one could decipher was a muffled Mozart and a decontracted Debussian.

In her defense, one must say that Lubra made an engaging and honest presentation. If she played at Philamlife or CCP perhaps one would get to hear the keyboard interpreter at her best.

The issue here is that presenters should take pains to give artists the best instruments (with competent tuners) and the best venue available. Otherwise, the best efforts will end up not fully appreciated.

Here and there

The Philippine Youth Symphonic Band will have a special fund-raising concert with Gary Valenciano as guest artist on Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m., at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City. It is called "Live to Play, Play to Live."

There will be an auction of seven designer chairs donated by such celebrated designers as Kenneth Cobonpue, Budji Layug, Al Corrosas, Ayo Bautistan, Mike Arcilla, Tony Cumsiong and Maja Ollivares Co.

Proceeds will go to the music education and livelihood program for young musicians of the Philippine Youth Symphonic Band. This is the same group that participated in the annual national youth camporee camp where they made their live-in music course on sight reading, harmony, ensemble playing.

For ticket inquiries, call Ticketworld (tel. 891-9999) and Starbooks Trinoma (tel. or call the PYSB line at 9917-1910/562 (look for Elmer).

The Manila Symphony Orchestra of the Philippine Int'l. memorial show for Cerdan Gonzalez, resident conductor of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, at the CCP Silangan Hall last week. Sampaguita gained forty Sep. 16 and is survived by his wife Dr. Francesca Castillo-Gonzalez, and his sons Waldo and Micah. He has three sisters-in-laws who are also working with the PPO—Felicitas, Clarissa and Veronica Sampaguita.

PPO to honor RP's migrants

By Arnaldo Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

THE COUNTRY HAS ANOTHER centennial in 2007. It was one hundred years ago that the first Filipino migrants started arriving in the United States. It is a story of blood, sweat and tears.

In succeeding decades and until the late 1930s, Filipino migrants, mostly farmhands and workers, were subjected to violent discrimination by white supremacists, especially in the West Coast.

In California during the 1930s, there were "No Dogs and Filipinos Allowed" signs in bars and lodging houses.

Among those who suffered bitterly in the fields was Carlos Bulosan, who became a best-selling poet and short-story writer in the US during the 1940s. He is best known for the classic "America Is in the Heart," which is not a novel but a work of semi-fiction. Bulosan himself described it as a "personal history."

In 1982, Dolores E. Stein, Bulosan's literary executor, had asked: "Are the more than one million Filipinos in America preserved in many Filipinos called to make life safe for them?"

THE PHILIPPINE Philharmonic Orchestra with Maestro Eugene Castillo

Concert tour

The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO)—under music director Eugene Castillo, himself a native-born American of Filipino parentage—will honor these migrants in a tour of US cities: San Francisco, Washington, Chicago and New York in May 2007.

The trip will be sponsored by Philippine ambassadors and consul generals. The PPO is the resident orchestra of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

The trip was revealed by Castillo in a recent press conference at Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila, which was actually called to announce the PPO's 23rd (2006-7) concert season, which starts Sept. 8.

In answer to a question, Castillo said the 2007 trip would not be purely cultural but would have an historical perspective.

As the CCP's Dennis Marasigan pointed out, "There will be historical exhibits leading to June 12, Independence Day."

"We would like people to remember the sacrifices [of migrants and World War II Filipino veterans]," Castillo said. "For example, in San Francisco, the rights of these veterans are now being made good upon by the mayor."

He added, "We are trying to offset the things that have happened in history."

Oh yes, we were talking about the PPO's 2006-7 season opening at the CCP Tanh concert has a theme, as in "Drama Untold" and "The Next Generation."

The season opens with clarinetist Joy Hunker playing a Copland concerto on Sept. 8, and ends with the Philippine Madrigal Singers interpreting Bruckner's "Te Deum" on April 13, 2007.

Composers whose works will be played include Mozart, Brahms, Beethoven, Bernstein, Respighi, Hindemith, Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, Stravinsky and Ives.

Meanwhile, the renowned violinist are pianists Najib Ismail, Cecile Licad and her son Ernesto Mercado, soprano Camille Lopez, and Ian Isaac Mark Sarcias.

"Each concert will be different," threatened the principal conductor of the PPO.

FROM top left: Pianist Najib Ismail, soprano Irma Ponce-Enrile Potenciano, pianist Cecile Licad, [second row] violinist Joy Hunker, baritone Noel Asuncion and pianist William Medhurst

UST launches 26 new books

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS Publishing House will launch 26 new titles from 8:30 a.m. at the Thomasian Alumni Research Complex, UST campus, Manila.

The new books are part of the 40 book project of UST, which has been releasing at least 40 titles a year since 2004 in the run up to its 400th founding anniversary in 2011.

Among the new books are "Building Bridges to Amang Rodriguez" by Virgilio Almario with Mark Anthony Reyes, Bell Dalmacion and Ferdinand Escudero; "Ani: The Life and Times of Hermogenes Campos" by Marjorie Evasco; "Between the Heartland and the Diaspora" by E. Lily Mendoza; "Postmodern Filming of Literature" by Joyce Arriola; and "Women in the Chinese" by Teresa Cancio.

Other books: "Building Bridges: Dominican Doing Theology Together" by Fr. Rolando S. de la Rosa, OP et al; "Still from the Heart" by Fr. Benedicto Lasa, OP; "Culture of Excellence, Culture of Conscience: The First Five Filipino Recipients of the University of Santo Tomas Outstanding Alumni Award for the Cause of Truth" by Fr. Philip Nicanor Rosales; and "Celebrating the Gospel of Life: Basic Issues in Bioethics," by Fr. Fausto Gomez, OP.

Textbooks include "Introduction to Complementary Alternative Medicine" by Dr. Victoria Lim; and "Industrial Chemical Processes in the Food Industries" by Cecilia Sarigumba.

'Godot, Wer Is U?' at Tanghalang Pilipino

FOLLOWING ITS SUCCESSFUL POP art of the Tanghalang Ensemble Valentino ICCP Little Theater's last play, Tanghalang Pilipino's "Godot, Wer Is U?" moves to the more intimate Tanghalang Huseng Batute ICCP Studio Theater's for a four-weekend run from today Oct. 1, with matinee shows on 3 p.m. (Saturdays and Sundays) and evening shows at 8 p.m. (Fridays and Saturdays).

"Godot, Wer Is U?" won part of the 2006 International Theater Festival and the French Spring in Manila 2006. Alain Teng, a respected cross-cultural theater director, teacher, choreographer and plastic artist from Avignon, France, worked with 10 actors for six weeks, employing interactive experimentation during rehearsals. For the texts in Pantun, TPs artistic director, Herbert Go, had the help of Jun Cruz Reyes.

Teng used an unconventional approach to the philosophical assumptions about the absurdisms or purposelessness of human existence. Go will be utilizing the same contemporary style in the production, giving it a youthful touch, to preserve Teng's directing integrity. Set in a community along the river, this absurdist drama gets Filipinized, complete with street slang, Pinoy humor and a relatable message.

The Filipino cast, handpicked by Teng, have the many hopefuls who auditioned for the play, is composed of former and present Tanghalang Pilipino Actors' Company members and scholars. The two principals are played by Nicki Ortiz as Vladimir (Didi) and Rene Cabreros as Estragon (Gogo). The small but lyrically-gifted team of tramps is played by Dindo Rodrigues, with Cris Porteros as the wandering servant Lucky, Kwang-ming discovery Mark-Gil Rasco as Godot, the "little messenger."

Design de Jesus III penned the translation, with sound design by Jethro Joaquin and production design by Noe Herb-retired Glen Gonzalez. Technical director Barbara Tan Chengco doubles as the lighting designer.

Tickets are at P500 (regular) and P250 (students). Call 832-0661 or 832-1125 local 1620-1625, or 401-9999.

'Shock Value' from Dulaang UP

IT IS SAID THAT THE TELEVISION falls live in a world of their own, a world that is parodied and satirized in the new play by Floy Quintos for Dulaang UP "Shock Value."

Welcome to the bewildering, bewitching, cutting obsessed, never spilling world of "Shock Value," where nothing is never too bad to be a scandal, for the new work from the author of "St. Louis Sonata Dos Mil."

Iguisa, "Huzi," and "Lara," the television for ratings and escape result to a hilarious parody of today's most powerful medium.

It is a story of Mort Dimpuestalon, a man at the peak of his career at WOLF TV as a host and producer of the hit program "Shock Value." But fate Gets Bullion, a reporter from a rival station, FOTY, captures an tape Mort's secret indiscretion with young co-worker, Janice.

The cast includes Shirley Kuang, Jay Ortiz, Mimi Mamaruan, Bella Medina, Bella Valente, Frances Makil-Ignacio, Jaime Santos, Ismari Asis, Mario Magallona and Mon Confiado, with the Dulaang UP ensemble.

"Shock Value" runs until Sept. 17 at the Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero Theater, U.P. Diliman Hall, UP Diliman, Call 926-1949.

Mr. & Ms. tackles the beauty debate

MR. & MS. THE SUPERMONTHLY of the body, mind and spirit, explores all things beautiful in its September issue.

The magazine examines the varied meanings of beauty in beauty, for example, the girl with the flawless white skin, 34-inch waistline and 36-B or C bra size, with long, straight hair.

Debunking mass media's canned definitions, "Uncover the Goddess in You" relates the Biblical story of Esther who used her looks to save herself and her people from persecution and death. The article challenges the reader to discover its inner beauty and strength.

Another article discusses neuroscientist/psychic Edgar Cayce's take on beauty. "Beauty comes from within, reflects that, in an emotional condition, or the way the spiritual Father, face the beauty of life, of inside/duality shining through the personality of self—gives the beauty a face looks out."

"The Many Facets of Beauty" quotes Plato: "Beauty is a privilege of nature." The feature explores how an individual can be beautified by meditation and exploring the inner self.

The issue includes a beauty supplement aptly titled The Gorgeous You.

Infusing reality in focus on spirituality and the supernatural, the series on divination celebrates with a feature on Zoomancy or Dowsing with Animals. UP professor Ulpiano Ruiz examines the powers of animals to signal illness or other important events.

Anne Lenners, in his column, goes to the topic "Why the Future Can be Sexy."

The wonders of telepathy or extrasensation is discussed in another article.

Columnist Maria Francisco reviews "The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying" by Sogyal Rinpoche.

"The Brethren of the Rosy Cross" is about modern-day Rosicrucians, the "secret" organization popularized by "The Da Vinci Code."

Popular celebrities Sam Milby and Toni Gonzaga, rumored to be steadies, grace the cover.

Metro's 'Big Beauty' issue

OVER 100 OF THE BEST BEAUTY PRODUCTS on the market are listed, rated and reviewed by the Metro staff for its annual beauty issue. Moisturizers, nailfolishes, makeup, hair products, lip and eye creams, you name it and it's in Metro's September issue.

Actress, wife and mother Sonia Zobrera graces the cover, and talks about how staying beautiful means living healthy and living correctly of unhealthy habits out to others.

Manila's most stylish women also share their beauty secrets, and a former beauty editor dishes out what she really learned on the job.

For fashion essentials, learn how to wear the latest trends, from leggings to maxis, to mother-son age and body types.

Beauty queen and TV host Miriam Quiambao opens up about the end of her fairytale marriage, and the process of moving on.

Metro, "the magazine for the independent woman," is available nationwide.

Model search

Meanwhile, Metro is conducting a search for the next Filipina supermodel.

If you're 16-28 years old, at least 5'6", a 32 ignite, and can communicate well in both English and Filipino, you may join the search.

It also has prizes worth almost P400,000—in wardrobe, beauty treatments, workshops and gym membership—and a Cosmos appeared in Metro.

"Check Out the Top Model Search mechanics and fill up the forms found inside Metro May, 2006's August, September and October 2006 issues.

Submit requirements to Metro's Top Model Search, c/o Metro Magazine, 4/F ELJ Communications Center, Eugenio Lopez Ave., 200-street, Quezon City, Philippines 1200, or e-mail to: [illegible]

Log on to www.metromagazine.com.ph.

Latin American cultural festival Sept. 6-8

THE PHILIPPINE ACADEMIC CONsortium for Latin American Studies (Philacas) will hold a series of lectures and a "Noche Latina" (Latin night) at the Ateneo de Manila University on Sept. 6-8 to raise public awareness on the Philippine-Spanish-Latin heritage.

On Sept. 6, at the Social Science audio-visual room, Felipe Jalao, consul of the Embassy of Chile, will interview Chile's political history 1970s to the present.

On Sept. 7, at the Fores building audio-visual room, Ambassador Mario Schoull of Argentina will show a documentary film, "Aspects of Argentina," and comment on the themes.

On Sept. 8 at the Fores 405, Manuel Perez Bustle, chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, will discuss Venezuelan oil and geopolitics in Asia and the Pacific.

There will also be an exhibit of various Latin American countries at the basement of the AIF Singkilan Center for Student Leadership.

On Sept. 8, 6-9 p.m., Pachas, in cooperation with the mission Lingua ner Culinos, a student group promoting the appreciation for the humanities, will present Noche Latina, a mini-fiesta at the roof deck of the AIF Pangilinan Center. There will be Latin music, dances, samba and Brazilian martial arts demonstrations, and a food cook. Winners of the essay-writing contest on Latin America and the Philippines will also be announced.

The events are open to the public.

The Pachas was expanded by the Department of Foreign Affairs in 2002 to promote greater awareness of Latin America among Filipinos, especially university students. Members are Ateneo, Philippine Institute for Development Studies, University of the Philippines, De La Salle University, University of Sto. Tomas, University of Asia and the Pacific, and University of the East.

Call 4266957 or 4266000 local 4007 or 4038.

Postcolonial lecture by Fil-Am expert

S. LILY MENDOZA, ASSISTANT professor in rhetoric and communication of the University of Utrecht, will deliver the lecture "Sovereign Representations on the Academic Liberal Ideology and the Impossibility of Rhetoric Long ago" at the audio-visual room of the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas Sept. 7, 3 p.m.

The lecture is part of a series sponsored by the UST Department of Literature and the Translation, the UST student paper, on Filipino expatriate scholars. Previous speakers were Fidelito Cuaves, Jocelyn Buley, Marianne Villanueva and N. Zamora Linmark.

Mendoza's book "The Homeland and the Diaspora: The Politics of Theorizing Filipino and Filipino American Literatures" is published by Routledge of London. The Philippine edition is published by UST Publishing House.

The lecture is open to the public.

Personal discovery workshops

A TRANSFORMED SELF-awareness leads to an enhanced self-esteem and improved interpersonal relationships. Discover fresh insights about yourself and learn how to stand off those negative vibes that get in the way of your success and happiness at the Institute Goss (ISC) Personal Discovery Workshops.

ISC has prepared fun and dynamic discussions and exercises about issues/issues (Sept. 8) to overcome blocks to personal satisfaction; Patterns of Relationships (Oct. 22) to better understand those emotional and mental programs in our subconscious that affect our relationships with people; Coping with Stress (Nov. 25) to find out how you can harness stress for success; and Letting Go and Moving Forward (Dec. 16) to liberate yourself from a painful past.

All sessions will be held 8-5 p.m. in ISC, 4th level of Robinsons Galleria. Each workshop charges P500 inclusive of food. Registration fee is P100.

Dr. Andrew Goss is a counseling and training center owned by Dr. Antonio Gorbachov, a psychologist and HRD practitioner for over 20 years. She is an expert in growth, focus therapy, reinforcement of self-esteem, stress management, conflict resolution and person-centered approaches to learning. Likewise, the center's counselors and instructors are competent professionals gifted with sensitivity and genuineness.

ISC also offers more exciting dream delights and group encounter workshops.

Call 5472206, 09273675111.

Philippine Art Awards 2006
Last Call for Entries

This much-awaited visual art competition continues to accept entries in all media and is open to all Filipinos. All entries must be well-bound.

Grand Prize: P300,000 (One Winner)
Juror's Choice: P150,000 each (Four Winners)

All winners will be awarded an all-expenses-paid trip to Singapore.

Entry forms are available in Manila at the Philip Morris Philippines office at the 17th Floor, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City during office hours, Monday to Friday and at all Provincial Collection Centers.

Submission of Entries

Area	Collection Center	Date
Cebu	Southwestern University Museum	August 18
Davao	UP Mindanao – Tertiary Media Building	August 31
Cagayan de Oro	Xavier de Oro – Xavier University	September 6
Bacolod	Negros Museum	September 14
Iloilo	Daggan – School for the Arts	September 20
Pagsanjan	Development Institute for Modern Artists	September 25
Baguio	Baguio Mountain Provincial Museum	September 28
Manila	Asian Topics Lung Mining and Storage	October 6

For inquiries, contact the Philippine Art Awards Secretariat at (02)897-5555, Fax (02)897-5511 or e-mail: philartawards@pmintl.com

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Spread the word, not the disease! Cut out this portion and pass on public bulletin boards.

ENTERTAINMENT

John Bonnie E. Velarde

Penguins captivate Mega

By Sharon Cuneta

MY JOY over doing the narration for "Penguin, Pinguin, Pinuo Ka Ginawa?"—Philippine version of the 2005 Oscar Best Documentary Feature, "March of the Penguins"—should be evident in the final print.

I first saw the documentary TV in my hotel room in Hon-

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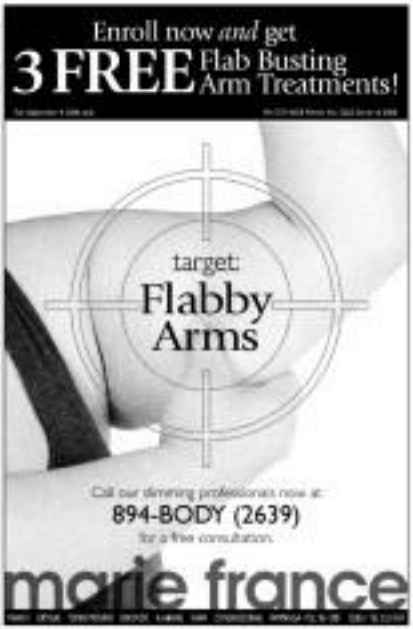

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UNITED 93
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MIAMI VICE
LITTLE MAN
DETONATION
CLICK
YOU ARE THE ONE
YOU ARE THE ONE

MIAMI VICE
SNAKE ON A PLANE
MORTUARY
YOU ARE THE ONE
CLICK
YOU ARE THE ONE
YOU ARE THE ONE
LITTLE MAN

MIAMI VICE
MORTUARY
OH MY GHOST
YOU ARE THE ONE
LITTLE MAN
YOU ARE THE ONE

MIAMI VICE
YOU ARE THE ONE
SNAKE ON A PLANE
LITTLE MAN
DEVIL WEARS PRADA

LITTLE MAN
AMERICAN HAUNTING
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
YOU ARE THE ONE
YOU ARE THE ONE
LITTLE MAN

STORMBREAKER
LITTLE MAN
YOU ARE THE ONE
MORTUARY
YOU ARE THE ONE
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MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
LITTLE MAN
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2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 STAY ALIVE
5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
8 RESERVED
9 THE BIG WHITE
10 LITTLE MAN

ERMITA

1 YOU ARE THE MAN
2 STAY ALIVE
3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 SNAKE SON A PLANE
5 LITTLE MAN
6 CLICK
7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
8 CLICK

METRO EAST

1 TAMARA
2 SUKOB
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 LITTLE MAN
5 CLICK
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE

NOVALICHES

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 LITTLE MAN
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

CITYSQUARE MALABON

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER

1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STAY ALIVE

STA. ROSA

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 WOLF CREEK
4 LITTLE MAN

LIPA

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 STORMBREAKER
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 JUST MY LUCK

DASMARINAS

1 LITTLE MAN
2 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 MORTUARY
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

ANGELES

1 AMERICAN DREAMZ
2 TAMARA
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STORMBREAKER

IMUS

1 MORTUARY
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 LITTLE MAN

STARMILLS

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 FIERCE PEOPLE
4 LITTLE MAN
5 MORTUARY
6 MIAMI VICE

BACOLOD

1 MIAMI VICE
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 LITTLE MAN
5 FIERCE PEOPLE
6 CLICK

ILOILO

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2 YOU ARE THE ONE
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Penguins captivate Mega

From page 61

shirts. At my children's insistence with me at the time and running around, I couldn't pay full attention. But I was enough to be touched by it. I saw the whole thing for the first time when I was already dubbing.

Amazing

It was amazing. I invited—requested penguins (whatever) what I thought were very human qualities, like family love and devotion. I was proud to have been chosen for the job. I immediately wanted to do it for my children ... and for Filipino moviegoers. I was sure that if in the opportunity pass me by, I would regret it all my life.

I was told that the decision for the US version to be spoken in made by Jet Jacquet, a to Pemeck), Morgan Freeman—who has invested so many documentaries over the years—lent his talented his talent to not accept another project he's schedu.

Just read

But when the script for "March of the Penguins" came, the agent called him to say "Just read it."

So Freeman did, and he called back right away to say he had to do it. I hope that story is accurate, although I wouldn't've said yes even without that background.

My own dubbing was scheduled for two days, but I ended up doing the whole thing in one go. It was so engrossing! I learned that it had been a surprise hit on to worldwide rec, second only to "Titanic" in U.S.

Less serious

The script I worked with, written by Dan Martinez and Eugene Romero, turned out to be not as serious as the 2D script. It's in Taglish. Besides, it's a chil' story little children who have not learned English would understand and hopefully appreciate the movie. I can't see the kids sitting down to see it with their Mama's voice telling the story.

It's not the kind of movie that the typical Filipino family would go see to see. But I really hope some do. Maybe this will spur more documentary features by our very own filmmakers. It's educational ... before movie and—I can't say the enough—amazing.

More, too

Let alone children, mothers will really relate to this. Emperor penguin moms would do anything for their chicks. After laying the egg (and

Penguins captivate Mega

From page E1

one yet unmindful for one mating season), the females very carefully transfer them to the males' feet for safekeeping. Then off the egg-mommies go off, walking for weeks to the ocean to feed, and ride to-and-fro food in their tummies for the hatchlings later on. Some would die during the long, perilous journey.

All Filipinos should watch "Penguins" for its purity: sure they will be curious, in the very least. How can they not be, with a tagline that goes, "In the coldest, harshest place on earth, there is love"?

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13

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G1	1 SNAKES ON A PLANE	2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	3 CRANK	4 YOU ARE THE ONE
G4	1 CRANK	2 YOU ARE THE ONE	3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	
	4 THE LOST CITY	5 STAY ALIVE	6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	7 LITTLE MAN
GB1	1 YOU ARE THE ONE	2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA		
GB3	1	2		
	3	4	5	
ATC	1 YOU ARE THE ONE	2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA		
	3 CRANK	4 SNAKES ON A PLANE	5 LITTLE MAN	
ACC	1 YOU ARE THE ONE	2 MONSTER-IN-LAW	3 SNAKES ON A PLANE	4 LITTLE MAN
M2	1 YOU ARE THE ONE	2 SNAKES ON A PLANE		
	3 STAY ALIVE	4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	5 CRANK	

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	TOWN
20th SM Supermall Madness August 30 to September 11, 2006	Philippine Rydelice September 1, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Aerobics Marathon Skate Rave September 9, 2006	Parent's Private Fair, Cash Series September 10, 2006
GREENBELT	Santa Photos at SM 2 September 13 & 27, 2006
Christlights	Rosanna Philippines presents Mel Tiangco's SLASSIC JR at ABS-CBN Studio Theater - Sept. 2, 9, 23, 10 & 23 For inquiries, pls. call 981-8178
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JASON STATHAM
CRANK

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Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

2	4		6	8	7		5	1
5								4
	6						8	
		5		1		2		
		7	8	2	6	1		
		6		4		7		
	5						7	
9								3
7	8		4	6	3		1	9

Difficulty Level ★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	5	9	4	6	8	3	1	2
2	4	1	3	7	5	8	9	6
8	3	6	1	9	2	4	5	7
3	2	8	7	5	9	6	4	1
9	1	5	6	3	4	7	8	3
4	6	7	9	8	1	5	3	5
5	8	4	2	1	3	9	7	9
1	7	2	5	8	6	1	3	4
6	9	3	8	4	7	2	6	5

Streep starrer a film . . .

From page B1

cancelled.

'Concert at the Park'

ON "CONCERT at the Park" this month, the special offerings are: Sept. 3, "Kudyapugan," featuring six Filipino group that specializes in ethno-tribal earth-music presenting Filipino culture, poses, humanism and the environment; Sept. 10, "Young Inferno," a Gawaiyapak Theater Foundation presentation; Sept. 24, "Ang Pambansang Pilipino," a concert on family values featuring Sen. Edgar Erasmus as Jolo Bunyog" and the Sayembuan Philippine Dance Company.

'Unengaging Kenan'

MANNY Pacquiao's movie, "Unengaging Kenan," is now on video. The boxing champion plays a problem-juror who goes to Manila to make money to support his sick mother (Gloria Sanchez) and blind sister (Bianca Polotan).

Feedback

A CONCERTGOER reader criticizes Mark-Tyler Nobleza in an economic survey: "Is it possible Jose didn't hear well or the guests didn't pronounce well, or that they were not 'tagalog' and therefore their grammar or pronunciation doesn't meet his high standard?

"But, why criticize? Why the sarcasm? Why ridicule? May limit na and publisher ng tinatawag lugs of other people? They ought to be a law against people who maliciously publicize other people's shortcomings, especially when they profit from it."

The 3rd German Silent Film Festival

presents

Asphalt

with music by Cynthia Alexander

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MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SUPER CINERAMA

Sweet and surreal treat

By Oliver M. Pritzlaff
Contributor

IF "MONSTER HOUSE" HAD BEEN A 1950s sci-fi flick rather than a 2006 movie like "Snakes," instead of a digitally animated one, it would still exist. If it were to come to that, nostalgia for the '80s would have to be the film's productive motor, then, indeed, it wasn't originally planned as a cartoon. In any case, the final product has enough thrills going for it, and it works as a unique, family-friendly cartoon.

The dynamic visuals allow a lot of surreal exaggeration, whether that requires comic bending of the laws of physics, or a more cartoony, Tim Burton-esque color palette. In this dimension, it's easy to suspend disbelief.

Thanks to motion-capture technology, the characters' movements and physical behaviors are lifted. Their designs strike a balance between reality and caricature. They look nothing like the stereotype and unsettling virtual cast of "The Polar Express." What they look like, are the cartoony but still recognizable humans of the recent "Ant Bully." But as with other animated features, the most important facets are the characters' personalities.

The heroes are written as smart and brave enough who don't put on your serious. They're underdogs that you'd actually root for. DJ, Chowder and Jenny become flat-out likes in a current war against a haunted house across the street. Believing that the house is possessed, the trio try in vain to convince their adult guardians and some cops that the structure is alive and intending anyone who sets foot on its front lawn. Their universe, they the house before it "eats" Halloween trick-or-treaters.

Review

The wildly funny concepts up conflicts between the supernatural house and the educational pedestrians and also discusses generation gaps and puberty. It provides a fresh spin on the old haunted house idea.

The voice talents—among them Steve Buscemi, Kathleen Turner, Jason Lee and Maggie Gyllenhaal—are special and fun gathering. Co-executive produced by genius Steven Spielberg and Robert Zemeckis, and directed by newcomer Gil Kenan, "Monster House" is a sweet and surreal pre-Halloween treat.

Big deal for 'Kubrador'

By Manuel R. Cruz

THE PRODUCER OF THE AWARD-winning Jeffrey Jeremy film "Kubrador" is set to add a 25-year worldwide distribution deal with Cinemavault Releasing International, Inquirer Entertainment learned on Friday.

Cinemavault, a Toronto-based outfit currently representing over 200 movies, operates primarily as an international sales entity for independent films.

"I'm studying the contract very carefully," Alice ell, 37, for handling "Kubrador" to them for 25 years," MGE Films producer Joji Alonzo said.

Two weeks ago, Cinemavault confirmed its interest in "Kubrador" through an e-mail sent by Michael Faust, vice president for acquisitions.

Among Cinemavault's focused international releases are "Sexual Dependency," "Limousine," "Tale of a Naughty Girl" and "Generation The Fast Waiting," which won at the Cannes and Berlin International Film Festivals.

Alonzo said Cinemavault has big plans for "Kubrador," including dubbing it in French, Spanish and English, "so that the movie can play in non-theatrical."

The sold MGE Films librarian received inquiries on sales and distribution from Studio Stephen A. Emmins Jr., owner of Blue Sabe Company (which represents the controversial "Eldorado," 9/11"), and Sejji Point of Steve Low Cinema (producer of the "Lord of the Rings" series).

Trailblazer

According to sales manager Bella Castillo, the interest on "Kubrador" could help pave the way for other good Filipino films in the international market.

"If we don't get much from local sales, foreign market are lucrative industry," Jeremy said. "This is exactly what happened to the Japanese and Korean film industries. MGE Films' decision could work for other Filipino filmmakers.

Jeremy Lim produced Mel Chionglo's "Sibak," a controversial story film in the '90s, written by Ricky Lee. It was sold to 14 distributors worldwide and shown in 21 countries.

"If this goes out well, local producers wouldn't have to worry if their movies don't make much have," said Jeremy.

"Kubrador" recently received its 17th invitation from the Tokyo International Film Festival, where it will be screened in the Words of Asia section. The festival runs from Oct. 21 to 29.

"With Cinemavault as agent, MGE must not worry about promotions when 'Kubrador' competes in international film fests," Castillo noted.

"Kubrador" is a strong contender, along with "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," as the country's entry to the Best Foreign Film category of the next Oscars. The Film Academy of the Philippines is expected to announce its decision this week.

No battle between 2 Ninoy movies

By Nes Valera

THERE IS NO BATTLE BETWEEN TWO Ninoy movies—not yet, anyway.

Movie producer Donna Villa told Inquirer.net columnist in an exclusive interview that she's not worried that the one she's directed, director Carlo J. Caparas, are still discussing collaborations with the soldiers arrested in the 1960 Aquino-Gubat coup de etat.

"If we do a movie [about it], it would have to extend something new," Villa said.

The couple went to the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa on Monday to "listen" to the soldiers' story. Brgy. Bobot Olagnat, private-buddy, Sacco-pretendy star and brother in charge, in March 2005 about producing a movie based on the former soldiers' point of view.

Actor-producer Gene Montano—who is announced he was making a Ninoy biopic next year with the blessings of the Aquino and Aquino's widow, former President Cory Aquino.

Who was ahead?

In a phone interview on Friday Montano said he was surprised that Caparas was planning his own Ninoy movie. So is fellow "Bonnakay 1 personality wouldn't have done that, knowing that a similar project was underway," said the same director.

Villa clarified that the idea of a Ninoy project for her Golden Lions Films and director-star outfit was birthed in 2005. "I was afraid of Cesar" she pointed out. "Maybe he shouldn't be doing his movie."

Track record

Golden Lions has produced a string of "true-life movies based on other movies, among them "The Muggle dela Fe vs Mary" and "Yolanda Mistress." Its last offering was "The Dhavit Magsaysay Story" released in 2001. Montano starred as the man-servant. Dhavit Magsaysay, self-confessed "hermit," who refuses revelations brought down the Estrada administration.

"The idea of a movie based on the counter version of the truth is very tempting," Villa said. "But we have to think about it carefully. There's also it would be a good time to talk about the project publicly."

In searching for the "truth," Caparas intends to go by his own "one-bullet, one-aggression theory."

He explained to Inquirer.net columnist: "Only one bullet killed Ninoy. How come 16 people were convicted?"

He compared the Nino-Gabriel killings to the assassination of American President John F. Kennedy. "Lee Harvey Oswald was officially declared Kennedy's killer. But in the last three decades, questions about who really did it are still being asked."

Caparas continued: "We believe in the actual's decision. We believe in the rule of law that we can still explore the possibility that the soldiers tapped as fall guys for the real killer/s."

At this point, Montano claimed not as of a conflict between the two purported movies.

In the phone interview, the actor who is starring in Ninoy in the movie that he himself is producing—under the banner of Montano Viva Artists—said his version is all about "Ninoy the man, husband and father."

A small part

The conversation came at the urgent request, Montano said, could be the most crucial part in terms of exposure, but would still be "just a small portion of the whole."

In other words, he said, "she still not be challenging history by tackling the court decision on the double murder case. I'm pretty sure the two movies will be very different from one another."

Streep starrer a film to be savored

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre